

## DECEMBER 28, THE HOLY INNOCENTS: MASS

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Revelation to John**

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.” And he who sat upon the throne said, “Behold, I make all things new.” Also he said, “Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.” And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. He who conquers shall

have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.”

*The Reader concludes*    The Word of the Lord.

## **Psalm 124**

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 124, found in the red Prayer Book on page 781.

*(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)*

*At Sung Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 124 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1    If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
      let Israel now say;
- 2    If the Lord had not been on our side, \*  
      when enemies rose up against us;
- 3    Then would they have swallowed us up alive \*  
      in their fierce anger toward us;
- 4    Then would the waters have overwhelmed us \*  
      and the torrent gone over us;

- 5 Then would the raging waters \*  
have gone right over us.
- 6 Blessed be the Lord! \*  
he has not given us over to be a prey for their  
teeth.
- 7 We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the  
fowler; \*  
the snare is broken, and we have escaped.
- 8 Our help is in the Name of the Lord, \*  
the maker of heaven and earth.

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* We praise you, God;  
we acknowledge you as Lord;\*  
the white-robed army of martyrs praise  
you.

*People* Alleluia.

*The Reader returns to his or her seat.*

## The Holy Gospel

*The Minister says*

The Lord be with you.

*People*

And also with you.

*Minister*

✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord  
Jesus Christ according to  
Matthew.

*People*

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now when the wise men had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, “Out of Egypt have I called my son.” Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, was in a furious rage, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time which he had ascertained from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice was heard in Ra'mah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her

children; she refused to be consoled, because they were no more.”

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.