

**DECEMBER 29,  
THOMAS BECKET,  
ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, 1170: MASS**

*At the Noonday Office, please use the reading for 29 December in From the Fathers to the Churches, page 803, as marked.*

**For use with the First Lesson**

Adapted from *The Vocabulary of the Church* (1960):

Ez'dras

EZ-druhs

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Second Book of Esdras**

I, Ezra, saw on Mount Zion a great multitude, which I could not number, and they all were praising the Lord with songs. In their midst was a young man of great stature, taller than any of the others, and on the head of each of them he placed a crown, but he was more exalted than they. And I was held spellbound. Then I asked an angel, “Who are these, my lord?” He answered and said to me, “These are they who have put off mortal clothing and have put on the immortal, and they have confessed the name of God; now they are being crowned, and receive palms.” Then I said to

the angel, “Who is that young man who places crowns on them and puts palms in their hands?” He answered and said to me, “He is the Son of God, whom they confessed in the world.” So I began to praise those who had stood valiantly for the name of the Lord. Then the angel said to me, “Go, tell my people how great and many are the wonders of the Lord God which you have seen.”

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.

## **Psalm 126**

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 126, found in the red Prayer Book on page 782.

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

*The Reader at Sung Mass says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 126 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.
  
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”
- 4 The LORD has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O LORD, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their  
sheaves.

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* The Word became flesh and dwelt among  
us, \*  
full of grace and truth.

*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.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.”

*The Minister says*

The Gospel of the Lord.