

## YEARS A & B, EASTER 3, THURSDAY: MASS

### For use with the First Lesson

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

Can'dace

KAN-duh-see

Azo'tus

uh-ZOH-tus

Caesare'a

ses-uh-REE-uh

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

But an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert road. And he rose and went. And behold, an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a minister of the Can'dace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of all her treasure, had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go up and join this chariot.” So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet, and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” And he said, “How can I, unless some one guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with

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ACTS 8:26–40; PSALM 66:14–18; JOHN 6:41–51\*

*WE INCLUDE JOHN 6:41–43 TO HEAR ALL OF THIS CHAPTER READ AT THE DAILY EUCHARIST.*

him. Now the passage of the scripture which he was reading was this: “As a sheep led to the slaughter or a lamb before its shearer is dumb, so he opens not his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken up from the earth.” And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, pray, does the prophet say this, about himself or about some one else?” Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this scripture he told him the good news of Jesus. And as they went along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What is to prevent my being baptized?” And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught up Philip; and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azo'tus, and passing on he preached the gospel to all the towns till he came to Caesare'a.

*The Reader concludes*    The Word of the Lord.

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## **Psalm 66:14–18**

*The Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 66, verses 14 through 18, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 674.

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

- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the LORD would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

*Please turn the page to lead the Gospel Acclamation.*

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## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* Christ being raised from the dead will  
never die again; \*  
death no longer has dominion over him.

*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 John.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, “I am the bread which came down from heaven.” They said, “Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven?’” Jesus answered them, “Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws

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him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Every one who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that any one has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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