

EASTER 7, WEDNESDAY: MASS

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ephesus

EF-uh-sis

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul said to the elders of the church at Ephesus, “Take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to care for the church of God which he obtained with the blood of his own Son. I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I coveted no one’s silver or gold or apparel. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my necessities, and to those who were

with me. In all things I have shown you that by so toiling one must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’ ” And when he had spoken thus, he knelt down and prayed with them all. And they all wept and embraced Paul and kissed him, sorrowing most of all because of the word he had spoken, that they should see his face no more. And they brought him to the ship.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 68:28–36

At Said Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 68, verses 28 through 36, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 678.

(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)

At Sung Mass the Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 68 as found in the service bulletin.

28 Send forth your strength, O God; *
 establish, O God, what you have wrought for us.

- 29 Kings shall bring gifts to you, *
for your temple's sake at Jerusalem.
- 30 Rebuke the wild beast of the reeds, *
and the peoples, a herd of wild bulls with its
calves.
- 31 Trample down those who lust after silver; *
scatter the peoples that delight in war.
- 32 Let tribute be brought out of Egypt; *
let Ethiopia stretch out her hands to God.
- 33 Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; *
sing praises to the LORD.
- 34 He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; *
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
- 35 Ascribe power to God; *
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.

36 How wonderful is God in his holy places! *
the God of Israel giving strength and power to
his people!
Blessed be God!

The Reader says
Please stand for the Gospel.

The Gospel Acclamation

The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader The Lord said, I will not leave you
desolate; *
I will come back to you, and your hearts
will rejoice.

People Alleluia.

The Reader then 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.

Jesus, praying for his friends at the supper before the passover, said, “Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. While I was with them, I kept them in thy name, which thou hast given me; I have guarded them, and none of them is lost but the son of perdition, that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to thee; and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. I have given them thy word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I do not pray that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth. As thou didst send me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth.”

The Minister says

The Gospel of the Lord.