

25 SEPTEMBER, SERGIUS OF MOSCOW: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Sirach

He who devotes himself to the study of the law of the Most High will seek out the wisdom of all the ancients, and will be concerned with prophecies; ² he will preserve the discourse of notable men and penetrate the subtleties of parables; ³ he will seek out the hidden meanings of proverbs and be at home with the obscurities of parables. ⁴ He will serve among great men and appear before rulers; he will travel through the lands of foreign nations, for he tests the good and the evil among men. ⁵ He will set his heart to rise early to seek the Lord who made him, and will make supplication before the Most High; he will open his mouth in prayer and make supplication for his sins. ⁶ If the great Lord is willing, he will be filled with the spirit of understanding; he will pour forth words of wisdom and give thanks to the Lord in prayer. ⁷ He will direct his counsel and knowledge aright, and meditate on his secrets. ⁸ He will reveal instruction in his teaching, and will glory in the law of the Lord's covenant. ⁹ Many will praise his understanding, and it will never be blotted out; his memory will not

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disappear, and his name will live through all generations.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 34:1-9

The Said Mass Reader says:

Please join me in reading Psalm 34, verses 1 through 9, found in the Prayer Book beginning on page 627.

The Reader repeats the above information several times.

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- ¹ I will bless the Lord at all times; *
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
- ² I will glory in the Lord; *
let the humble hear and rejoice.
- ³ Proclaim with me the greatness of the Lord; *
let us exalt his Name together.
- ⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me *
and delivered me out of all my terror.
- ⁵ Look upon him and be radiant, *
and let not your faces be ashamed.
- ⁶ I called in my affliction and the Lord heard me *
and saved me from all my troubles.
- ⁷ The angel of the Lord encompasses those who fear
him, *
and he will deliver them.
- ⁸ Taste and see that the Lord is good; *
happy are they who trust in him!
- ⁹ Fear the Lord, you that are his saints, *
for those who fear him lack nothing.

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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, “The kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸ when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹ So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹ Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” ⁵² And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.