The First Lesson. The Reader begins

# A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul, standing in the middle of the Areopagus, said: "Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious. <sup>23</sup> For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. 24 The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by man, <sup>25</sup> nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all men life and breath and everything. <sup>26</sup> And he made from one every nation of men to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their habitation, <sup>27</sup> that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after him and find him. Yet he is not far from each one of us, <sup>28</sup> for 'In him we live and move and have our being'; as even some of your poets have said, 'For we are indeed his offspring.' 29 Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the Deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, a representation by the art and

imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all men everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all men by raising him from the dead."

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

#### Psalm 33:12-22

The Said Mass Reader says:

Please join me in reading Psalm 323, verses 12 thru 22, found in the Prayer Book beginning on page 626. The Reader repeats the above information several times.

- Happy is the nation whose God is the LORD! \* happy the people he has chosen to be his own!
- The LORD looks down from heaven, \* and beholds all the people in the world.
- From where he sits enthroned he turns his gaze \* on all who dwell on the earth.
- He fashions all the hearts of them \* and understands all their works.
- There is no king that can be saved by a mighty army; \*
  - a strong man is not delivered by his great strength.
- The horse is a vain hope for deliverance; \* for all its strength it cannot save.
- Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon those who fear him, \*
  on those who wait upon his love,

- To pluck their lives from death, \* and to feed them in time of famine.
- Our soul waits for the LORD; \* he is our help and our shield.
- Indeed, our heart rejoices in him, \*
  for in his holy Name we put our trust.
- Let your loving-kindness, O LORD, be upon us, \* as we have put our trust in you.

## Verse before the Gospel

All stand as the reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader Show us your mercy, O Lord,

and grant us your salvation.

People Alleluia.

# 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, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will

answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.