

# THE FIRST BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: MASS

*The Epistle Lesson. The Reader begins*

## **The Epistle of saint Paule, written in the Eleventh Chapter of Letter to the Romans**

But I say to you, heathen men, for as long as I am apostle of heathen men, I shall honour my ministry, if in any manner I stir my flesh for to follow, and that I make some of them safe. For if the loss of them is the reconciling of the world, what is the taking up, but life of dead men? For if a little part of that that is tasted be holy, the whole gobbet is holy; and if the root is holy, also the branches. What if any of the branches be broken, when thou were a wild olive tree, art grafted among them, and art made fellow of the root, and of the fatness of the olive tree, do not thou have glory against the branches. For if thou gloriest, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Therefore thou sayest, The branches be broken, that I be grafted in. Well, for unbelief the branches be broken; but thou standest by faith. Do not thou understand high things, but dread thou, for if God spared not the natural branches, lest peradventure he spare not thee. Therefore see the goodness, and the fierceness of God; yea, the

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fierceness into them that fell down, but the goodness of God into thee, if thou dwellest in goodness, else also thou shalt be cut down. Yea, and they shall be set in, if they dwell not in unbelief. For God is mighty, to set them in again. For if thou art cut down of the natural wild olive tree, and against kind art set into a good olive tree, how much more they that be by kind, shall be set in their olive tree?

*The Reader concludes*    The Word of the Lord.

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## The Holy Gospel

*The Minister says*

The Lord be with you.

*People* And with thy spirite.

*Minister* ✠ The holy Gospell, written in the  
Second Chapter of Luke

*People* Glory be to thee, O Lorde.

And lo! a man was in Jerusalem, whose name *was* Simeon; and this man was just and virtuous, and abode the comfort of Israel; and the Holy Ghost was in him.

<sup>26</sup> And he had taken an answer of the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, but he saw first the Christ of the Lord. And he came in Spirit into the temple. And when his father and mother led the child Jesus to do after the custom of the law for him, he took him into his arms, and blessed God, and said, Lord, now thou lettest go thy servant after thy word in peace; for mine eyes have seen thine health, which thou hast made ready before the face of all peoples; light to the showing of heathen men, and glory of thy people Israel. And his father and his mother were wondering on upon these things, that were said of him. And

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Simeon blessed them, and said to Mary, his mother,  
Lo! this is set into the falling down and into the rising  
again [into the falling and into the rising again] of  
many men in Israel, and into a token, to whom it shall  
be against-said. And a sword shall pass through thine  
own soul, that the thoughts be showed of many hearts.