

THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

The Vigil Mass

Year A-B-C

Reading 1

*Citation: Chronicles, Chap. 15, Verses 3-4, 15-16; Chap. 16, Verses 1-2
Chronicles 15: 3-4, 15-16;16: 1-2*

David leads his people in returning the Ark of the Covenant to its rightful place in Jerusalem. A very joyous and reverent occasion for the Jews. Reflect these emotions as you proclaim this passage.

A Reading from the First Book of Chronicles

David assembled all Israel in Jerusalem [short pause]
to bring the ark of the LORD to the place that he had prepared for it. [narrative]
David also called together the sons of Aaron and the Levites.

The Levites bore the ark of God on their shoulders with poles, [narrative]
as Moses had ordained
according to the word of the LORD. [parenthetical expression?]

David commanded the chiefs of the Levites
to appoint their kinsmen as chanters, [short pause]
to play on musical instruments, [short pause]
harps, [a list!]
lyres,
and cymbals, [short pause]
to make a loud sound of rejoicing. [raise volume a bit?] [short pause]

They brought in the ark of God [matter-of-factly]
and set it within the tent which David had pitched for it. [short pause]

Then [very short pause]
they offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings to God. [short pause]

When David had finished offering up the burnt offerings and peace offerings,
he blessed the people [short pause]
in the name of the LORD. [emphatic]

The Word of the Lord.

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Reading 2

Citation: 1 Corinthians, Chap. 15, Verses 54b-57
1 Corinthians 15: 54b-57

St. Paul is drawing our attention to Christ's "defeat" of death – death is no longer to be seen as the end of human existence! It is the doorway into eternal joy and happiness – UNION with God – for those who are followers of Jesus. Be Paul! Remind your listeners of their calling and objective as forcefully as you can.

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

[as if addressing equals]

When that which is mortal clothes itself with immortality,
then
the word that is written shall come about:

[short pause]

[very short pause]

[short pause]

*Death is swallowed up in victory.
Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?*

[tone change, solemn] [short pause]

[drag "where" out a bit] [questioning]

[drag "where" out a bit] [disdain for "sting"]

The sting of death
is sin,
and the power of sin
is the law.

[Paul is explaining] [short pause]

[Pause]

[short pause]

[Pause]

But thanks be to God
who gives us the victory
through our Lord
Jesus Christ.

[joyous relief!]

[parenthetical expression?]

[emphatic!]

The Word of the Lord.

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GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 11, Verses 27-28

Luke 11: 27-28

There is a large crowd all around you and yet you (Jesus) hear this woman's voice calling out a blessing for you (and you know it is misplaced). You attempt to reach out to her (as well as to everybody else with the same mistaken thinking). The only way you can be heard above the noisy crowd is to shout your response! Let's hear that loud response!! Your listeners NEED to hear it!

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

While Jesus was speaking,

a woman from the crowd called out and said to him,

"Blessed is the womb that carried you
and the breasts at which you nursed."

(the woman raises her volume to be heard)

“

He replied,

"Rather, blessed are those
who hear the word of God and observe it."

(raise your volume more!)

The Gospel of the Lord.