

**APRIL 4,  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.,  
CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER, 1968: MASS**

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Letter of Paul  
to the Ephesians**

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with

all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.

### **Psalm 98:1–4**

*At Said Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 98, verses 1 through 4, beginning in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 727.

*(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)*

*At Sung Mass the Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 98 as found in the service bulletin.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.

- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the  
sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the  
house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the  
victory of our God.

*The Reader says*

Please stand for the Gospel.

### **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* Blessed are those who are the  
peacemakers, \*  
for they shall be called sons of God.

*People* Alleluia.

*The Reader 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 Luke.

*People*                     Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “I say to you that hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. To him who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from him who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to every one who begs from you; and of him who takes away your goods do not ask them again. And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is

kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful,  
even as your Father is merciful.

*The Minister says*      The Gospel of the Lord.