The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

But recall the former days when, after you were enlightened, you endured a hard struggle with sufferings, sometimes being publicly exposed to abuse and affliction, and sometimes being partners with those so treated. For you had compassion on the prisoners, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one. Therefore do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that you may do the will of God and receive what is promised. “For yet a little while, and the coming one shall come and shall not tarry; but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and keep their souls.

The Reader concludes  The Word of the Lord.
Psalm 138

_At Said Mass the Reader says_
Please join me in reading Psalm 138 found in the red Prayer Book on page 793.
_The Reader repeats the above information as needed._

_At Sung Mass the Reader says_
Please join me in reading Psalm 138 as found in the service bulletin.

1  I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with my whole heart; *
   before the gods I will sing your praise.

2  I will bow down toward your holy temple 
   and praise your Name, * 
   because of your love and faithfulness;

3  For you have glorified your Name * 
   and your word above all things.

4  When I called, you answered me; * 
   you increased my strength within me.
5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O LORD, *
   when they have heard the words of your mouth.

6 They will sing of the ways of the LORD, *
   that great is the glory of the LORD.

7 Though the LORD be high, he cares for the lowly; *
   he perceives the haughty from afar.

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
   you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies;
   your right hand shall save me.

9 The LORD will make good his purpose for me; *
   O LORD, your love endures for ever;
   do not abandon the works of your hands.

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 persecuted for righteousness’ sake, * for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
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 Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said to his disciples, “Then they will deliver you up to tribulation, and put you to death; and you will be hated by all nations for my name’s sake. And then many will fall away, and betray one another, and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. And because wickedness is multiplied, most men’s love will grow cold. But he who
endures to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, as a testimony to all nations; and then the end will come.”

_The Minister says_ The Gospel of the Lord.