

## The Second Reading

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After this, *if there is to be a Second Reading, a reader reads it from the ambo, as above.*

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims:

*The word of the Lord.*

All reply:

*Thanks be to God.*

(Roman Missal, *The Order of Mass*, no. 12)

## Scripture

### The Reading of Paul's Letters in Church

*And when this letter has been read among you, have it read also in the church of the Laodiceans; and see that you read also the letter from Laodicea. And say to Archippus, "See that you fulfil the ministry which you have received in the Lord." I, Paul, write this greeting with my own hand. Remember my fetters. Grace be with you. (Colossians 4:16-18)*

### Paul's Letters on Par with "the Scriptures"

<sup>15</sup> And count the forbearance of our Lord as salvation. *So also our beloved brother Paul wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, speaking of this as he does in all his letters. There are some things in them hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other scriptures. (2 Peter 3:15-16)*

## Tradition

### The Reading of Paul's "Letters" in the Early Church (4<sup>th</sup> Century)

Apostolic Constitutions: The reader, standing in the middle and in a raised location, reads the writings of Moses and Joshua the son of Nun, of Judges and Kings, of Chronicles and what was written after the return from exile; also the writings of Job, Solomon, and the sixteen prophets. *After two readings another person sings the hymns of David, and the people respond by singing the refrain. Then is read our Acts and the letters sent by Paul our fellow-worker to the churches under the impulse of the Holy Spirit; then a presbyter or a deacon reads one of the Gospels which we, Matthew and John, have passed down to you and which Paul's fellow-workers—namely, Luke and Mark—have received and have handed down to you. During the reading of the Gospel all the presbyters, the deacons, and the people stand while observing a great silence, for it is written, "Be silent, and listen, O Israel" [Deut 27:9]. Also, "But you, stand here near me and hear" [Deut 5:31]. Then the presbyters, one after another but not all together, exhort the people, and last of all the bishop, who is like the captain of a ship.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> *Apostolic Constitutions* 2.57.5. In Johnson, *Worship in the Early Church*, 2:221.

## Mystagogy

### The Preaching of the Apostles

Order of Readings for Mass: There is a semi-continuous reading of the Letters of Paul and James. (The Letters of Peter and John are read during the Easter and Christmas seasons.) (*Ordo Lectionum Missae* no. 107)

### Paul Continues to Preach to the World

Benedict XVI: “It is above all important to note that Saint Paul’s Letters very soon entered the liturgy; where the structure of prophet-apostle-Gospel is crucial for the form of the Liturgy of the Word. *Thus, thanks to this “presence” in the Church’s liturgy, the Apostle’s thought immediately gave spiritual nourishment to the faithful of every epoch.*<sup>2</sup>

### Questions for Discussion and Reflection

1. What readings can be chosen for the Second Reading during Ordinary Time and Easter Season? Why?

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2. What are the principles of Selection for the Second Reading?

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### For Further Reading

Jungmann, Joseph, S.J. *The Mass of the Roman Rite: Its Origins and Development*. 2 Volumes. Translated by Francis A. Brunner, C.S.S.R. Reprint. Notre Dame, Ind.: Christian Classics, 2012.

Benedict XVI. *Saint Paul*. (San Francisco: Ignatius, 2009).

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<sup>2</sup> Benedict XVI, General Audience (February 4, 2009). In Pope Benedict XVI, *Saint Paul* (San Francisco, Calif.: Ignatius, 2009), 128-129.