

**The Collect of the Day:** Almighty and Everlasting God, who kindled the flame of your love in the heart of your faithful martyr Manche Masemola: Grant to us your servants, a like faith and power of love, that we who rejoice in her triumph may profit by her example; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Psalm 118:8-14** *Read responsively by the half-verse, breaking at the asterisk.*

BCP p. 761

- 8** It is better to rely on the Lord \* **than to put any trust in flesh.**
- 9** It is better to rely on the Lord \* **than to put any trust in rulers.**
- 10** All the ungodly encompass me; \* **in the name of the Lord I will repel them.**
- 11** They hem me in, they hem me in on every side; \* **in the name of the Lord I will repel them.**
- 12** They swarm about me like bees; they blaze like a fire of thorns; \* **in the name of the Lord I will repel them.**
- 13** I was pressed so hard that I almost fell, \* **but the Lord came to my help.**
- 14** Lord is my strength and my song, \* **and has become my salvation.**

**First Reading:** A Reading from the Book of James (5:7-11)

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. Indeed we call blessed those who showed endurance. You have heard of the endurance of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Second Reading:** A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew (19:13-15)

Little children were being brought to Jesus in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them; but Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Manche Masemola, Martyr, 1928:** It is believed that Manche Masemola was born around 1913, in Marishane, South Africa. She grew up with her parents, two older brothers, a younger sister named Mabule, and a cousin named Lucia. She was not sent to school, but worked with her family on their farm. Her family was not Christian, but rather followed traditional local religious practices. The Christian community in their region was very small, and was looked upon by most people with much suspicion. In 1919 Fr. Augustine Moeka of the Anglican Community of the Resurrection established a mission at Marishane. Manche Masemola and her cousin Lucia first heard Moeka preach as a result. She was eager to learn more, and began to attend worship services and classes at the mission twice a week. Soon she expressed a desire to be baptized, but her parents tried to forbid her. When their prohibitions failed to dissuade her, she was beaten. On a number of occasions, Manche Masemola remarked to Lucia and Moeka that she would die at her parents' hands and be baptized in her own blood. Then, on or near February 4, 1928, her mother and father took her away to an isolated place and killed her, and buried her by a granite rock on a remote hillside. She was about fifteen years old. Although she was not yet baptized, the church has historically recognized catechumens who died before they could be baptized as being baptized by their desire for baptism. In 1935 a small group of Christians first made a pilgrimage to her grave. Larger groups followed in 1941 and 1949. Now, hundreds visit the site every August. In 1975 her name was added to the calendar of the Church of the Province of Southern Africa. Manche Masemola is one of the twentieth-century martyrs whose statues are displayed at Westminster Abbey. More than 40 years after her daughter's murder, her mother was also baptized into the church in 1969.