

YEAR 1, PROPER 8, THURSDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

Adapted from *The Vocabulary of the Church* (1960):

Ba'lak

BAY-lack

Ba'laam

BAY-luhm

Zo'phim

ZOH-fim

Pe'or

PEE-or

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from Numbers

And Ba'lak said to Ba'laam, “What have you done to me? I took you to curse my enemies, and behold, you have done nothing but bless them.” And he answered, “Must I not take heed to speak what the LORD puts in my mouth?” And Ba'lak said to him, “Come with me to another place, from which you may see them; you shall see only the nearest of them, and shall not see them all; then curse them for me from there.” And he took him to the field of Zo'phim, to the top of Pisgah, and built seven altars, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar. Ba'laam said to Ba'lak, “Stand here beside your burnt offering, while I meet the LORD yonder.”

YEAR 1, PROPER 8, THURSDAY: EVENING PRAYER
NUMBERS 23:11–30*; LUKE 23:13–25

WE INCLUDE NUMBERS 23:27–30 TO HEAR ALL CHAPTER 23.

And the LORD met Ba'laam, and put a word in his mouth, and said, "Return to Ba'lak, and thus shall you speak." And he came to him, and, lo, he was standing beside his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Ba'lak said to him, "What has the LORD spoken?" And Ba'laam took up his discourse, and said, "Rise, Ba'lak, and hear; hearken to me, O son of Zippor: God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should repent. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfil it? Behold, I received a command to bless: he has blessed, and I cannot revoke it. He has not beheld misfortune in Jacob; nor has he seen trouble in Israel. The LORD their God is with them, and the shout of a king is among them. God brings them out of Egypt; they have as it were the horns of the wild ox. For there is no enchantment against Jacob, no divination against Israel; now it shall be said of Jacob and Israel, 'What has God wrought!' Behold, a people! As a lioness it rises up and as a lion it lifts itself; it does not lie down till it devours the prey, and drinks the blood of the slain." And Ba'lak said to Ba'laam, "Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all." But Ba'laam answered Ba'lak, "Did I not tell you, 'All that the LORD says, that I must do'?" And Ba'lak said to

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Ba'laam, “Come now, I will take you to another place; perhaps it will please God that you may curse them for me from there.” So Ba'lak took Ba'laam to the top of Pe'or, that overlooks the desert. And Ba'laam said to Ba'lak, “Build for me here seven altars, and provide for me here seven bulls and seven rams.” And Ba'lak did as Ba'laam had said, and offered a bull and a ram on each altar.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was perverting the people; and after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him; neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Behold, nothing deserving death has been done by him; I will therefore chastise him and release him.” But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city, and for murder. Pilate addressed them once more,

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desiring to release Jesus; but they shouted out, “Crucify, crucify him!” A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no crime deserving death; I will therefore chastise him and release him.” But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed. So Pilate gave sentence that their demand should be granted. He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, whom they asked for; but Jesus he delivered up to their will.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.