

YEAR 1, PROPER 11, TUESDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

A'i

AY-igh

Ar'abah

AIR-uh-buh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Joshua

And the LORD said to Joshua, “Do not fear or be dismayed; take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to A'i; see, I have given into your hand the king of A'i, and his people, his city, and his land; and you shall do to A'I and its king as you did to Jericho and its king; only its spoil and its cattle you shall take as booty for yourselves; lay an ambush against the city, behind it.” So Joshua arose, and all the fighting men, to go up to A'i; and Joshua chose thirty thousand mighty men of valor, and sent them forth by night. And he commanded them, “Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it; do not go very far from the city, but hold yourselves all in readiness; and I, and all

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JOSHUA 8:1–23*; MARK 4:21–34

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the people who are with me, will approach the city. And when they come out against us, as before, we shall flee before them; and they will come out after us, till we have drawn them away from the city; for they will say, ‘They are fleeing from us, as before.’ So we will flee from them; then you shall rise up from the ambush, and seize the city; for the LORD your God will give it into your hand. And when you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire, doing as the LORD has bidden; see, I have commanded you.” So Joshua sent them forth; and they went to the place of ambush, and lay between Bethel and A'i, to the west of A'i; but Joshua spent that night among the people. And Joshua arose early in the morning and mustered the people, and went up, with the elders of Israel, before the people to A'i. And all the fighting men who were with him went up, and drew near before the city, and encamped on the north side of A'i, with a ravine between them and A'i. And he took about five thousand men, and set them in ambush between Bethel and A'i, to the west of the city. So they stationed the forces, the main encampment which was north of the city and its rear guard west of the city. But Joshua spent that night in the valley. And when

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the king of A'i saw this he and all his people, the men of the city, made haste and went out early to the descent toward the Ar'abah to meet Israel in battle; but he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city. And Joshua and all Israel made a pretense of being beaten before them, and fled in the direction of the wilderness. So all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city. There was not a man left in A'i or Bethel, who did not go out after Israel; they left the city open, and pursued Israel. Then the LORD said to Joshua, "Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward A'i; for I will give it into your hand." And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city. And the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon as he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and took it; and they made haste to set the city on fire. So when the men of A'i looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to heaven; and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people that fled to the wilderness turned back upon the pursuers. And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had taken the city, and that the smoke of

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the city went up, then they turned back and smote the men of A'i. And the others came forth from the city against them; so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side; and Israel smote them, until there was left none that survived or escaped. But the king of A'i they took alive, and brought him to Joshua.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Gospel according to Mark

And Jesus said to those who were about him with the twelve, “Is a lamp brought in to be put under a bushel, or under a bed, and not on a stand? For there is nothing hid, except to be made manifest; nor is anything secret, except to come to light. If any man has ears to hear, let him hear.” And he said to them, “Take heed what you hear; the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you. For to him who has will more be given; and from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.” And he said, “The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed upon the ground, and should

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sleep and rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how. The earth produces of itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.” And he said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

The Reader concludes

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