

YEAR 1, PROPER 14, SUNDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Jeph'thah	JEF-thuh
Gil'eadite	GIL-ee-uh-dight
Gil'ead	GIL-ee-ad
Tob	TOHB (long “O”)
Am'monites	AM-ah-nights
Miz'pah	MIZ-pah
Manas'seh	muh-NAS-uh
Aro'er	uh-ROH-ur
A'bel-ker'amim	AY-buhl-KER-uh-min

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Judges

Now Jeph'thah the Gil'eadite was a mighty warrior, but he was the son of a harlot. Gil'ead was the father of Jeph'thah. And Gil'ead's wife also bore him sons; and when his wife's sons grew up, they thrust Jeph'thah out, and said to him, “You shall not inherit in our father's house; for you are the son of another woman.” Then Jeph'thah fled from his brothers, and dwelt in the land of Tob; and worthless fellows

collected round Jeph'thah, and went raiding with him. After a time the Am'monites made war against Israel. And when the Am'monites made war against Israel, the elders of Gil'ead went to bring Jeph'thah from the land of Tob; and they said to Jeph'thah, "Come and be our leader, that we may fight with the Am'monites." But Jeph'thah said to the elders of Gil'ead, "Did you not hate me, and drive me out of my father's house? Why have you come to me now when you are in trouble?" And the elders of Gil'ead said to Jeph'thah, "That is why we have turned to you now, that you may go with us and fight with the Am'monites, and be our head over all the inhabitants of Gil'ead." Jeph'thah said to the elders of Gil'ead, "If you bring me home again to fight with the Am'monites, and the LORD gives them over to me, I will be your head." And the elders of Gil'ead said to Jeph'thah, "The LORD will be witness between us; we will surely do as you say." So Jeph'thah went with the elders of Gil'ead, and the people made him head and leader over them; and Jeph'thah spoke all his words before the LORD at Miz'pah. Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jeph'thah, and he passed through Gil'ead and Manas'seh, and passed on to Miz'pah of Gil'ead, and from Miz'pah of Gil'ead he passed on to the Am'monites. And Jeph'thah made a vow to the LORD,

and said, “If thou wilt give the Am'monites into my hand, then whoever comes forth from the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Am'monites, shall be the LORD's, and I will offer him up for a burnt offering.” So Jeph'thah crossed over to the Ammonites to fight against them; and the LORD gave them into his hand. And he smote them from Aro'er to the neighborhood of Min'nith, twenty cities, and as far as A'bel-ker'amim, with a very great slaughter. So the Am'monites were subdued before the people of Israel. Then Jeph'thah came to his home at Miz'pah; and behold, his daughter came out to meet him with timbrels and with dances; she was his only child; beside her he had neither son nor daughter. And when he saw her, he rent his clothes, and said, “Alas, my daughter! you have brought me very low, and you have become the cause of great trouble to me; for I have opened my mouth to the LORD, and I cannot take back my vow.” And she said to him, “My father, if you have opened your mouth to the LORD, do to me according to what has gone forth from your mouth, now that the LORD has avenged you on your enemies, on the Am'monites.” And she said to her father, “Let this thing be done for me; let me alone two months, that I may go and wander on the mountains, and bewail my virginity, I and my companions.” And he

said, “Go.” And he sent her away for two months; and she departed, she and her companions, and bewailed her virginity upon the mountains. And at the end of two months, she returned to her father, who did with her according to his vow which he had made. She had never known a man. And it became a custom in Israel that the daughters of Israel went year by year to lament the daughter of Jeph'thah the Gil'eadite four days in the year.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

For use with the Second Lesson

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

Jude'a

juu-DEE-uh

Ae'non

EE-nahn

Sa'lim

SAY-lim

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Gospel According to John

After this Jesus and his disciples went into the land of Jude'a; there he remained with them and baptized.

John also was baptizing at Ae'non near Sa'lim, because there was much water there; and people came and

were baptized. For John had not yet been put in prison. Now a discussion arose between John's disciples and a Jew over purifying. And they came to John, and said to him, "Rabbi, he who was with you beyond the Jordan, to whom you bore witness, here he is, baptizing, and all are going to him." John answered, "No one can receive anything except what is given him from heaven. You yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before him. He who has the bride is the bridegroom; the friend of the bridegroom, who stands and hears him, rejoices greatly at the bridegroom's voice; therefore this joy of mine is now full. He must increase, but I must decrease." He who comes from above is above all; he who is of the earth belongs to the earth, and of the earth he speaks; he who comes from heaven is above all. He bears witness to what he has seen and heard, yet no one receives his testimony; he who receives his testimony sets his seal to this, that God is true. For he whom God has sent utters the words of God, for it is not by measure that he gives the Spirit; the Father loves the Son, and has given all things into his hand. He who believes in the Son has eternal life; he who does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God rests upon him.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.