

**YEAR 1, PROPER 15, WEDNESDAY:
MORNING PRAYER**

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ahim'a-az
Za'dok

uh-HIM-ay-az
ZAY-dahk

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

Then said Ahim'a-az the son of Za'dok, "Let me run, and carry tidings to the king that the LORD has delivered him from the power of his enemies." And Jo'ab said to him, "You are not to carry tidings today; you may carry tidings another day, but today you shall carry no tidings, because the king's son is dead." Then Jo'ab said to the Cushite, "Go, tell the king what you have seen." The Cushite bowed before Jo'ab, and ran. Then Ahim'a-az the son of Za'dok said again to Jo'ab, "Come what may, let me also run after the Cushite." And Jo'ab said, "Why will you run, my son, seeing that you will have no reward for the tidings?" "Come what may," he said, "I will run." So he said to him, "Run." Then Ahim'a-az ran by the way of the plain, and

outran the Cushite. Now David was sitting between the two gates; and the watchman went up to the roof of the gate by the wall, and when he lifted up his eyes and looked, he saw a man running alone. And the watchman called out and told the king. And the king said, "If he is alone, there are tidings in his mouth." And he came apace, and drew near. And the watchman saw another man running; and the watchman called to the gate and said, "See, another man running alone!" The king said, "He also brings tidings." And the watchman said, "I think the running of the foremost is like the running of Ahim'a-az the son of Za'dok." And the king said, "He is a good man, and comes with good tidings." Then Ahim'a-az cried out to the king, "All is well." And he bowed before the king with his face to the earth, and said, "Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delivered up the men who raised their hand against my lord the king." And the king said, "Is it well with the young man Ab'salom?" Ahim'a-az answered, "When Jo'ab sent your servant, I saw a great tumult, but I do not know what it was." And the king said, "Turn aside, and stand here." So he turned aside, and stood still. And behold, the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the power of all who rose

up against you.” The king said to the Cushite, “Is it well with the young man Ab'salom?” And the Cushite answered, “May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up against you for evil, be like that young man.” And the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, “O my son Ab'salom, my son, my son Ab'salom! Would I had died instead of you, O Ab'salom, my son, my son!”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

Please turn the page for the Second Lesson.

For use with the Second Lesson

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

Caesare'a	ses-uh-REE-uh
Lys'ias	LIS-i-uhs
Antip'atris	an-TIP-uh-tris
Cili'cia	si-LISH-i-uh
praetorium	pri-TOR-ee-uhm

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Then the tribune called two of the centurions and said, “At the third hour of the night get ready two hundred soldiers with seventy horsemen and two hundred spearmen to go as far as Caesare'a. Also provide mounts for Paul to ride, and bring him safely to Felix the governor.” And he wrote a letter to this effect:

“Claudius Lys'ias to his Excellency the governor Felix, greeting. This man was seized by the Jews, and was about to be killed by them, when I came upon them with the soldiers and rescued him, having learned that he was a Roman citizen. And desiring to know the charge on which they accused him, I brought him down to their council. I found that he was accused about questions of their law, but charged with nothing

deserving death or imprisonment. And when it was disclosed to me that there would be a plot against the man, I sent him to you at once, ordering his accusers also to state before you what they have against him.” So the soldiers, according to their instructions, took Paul and brought him by night to Antip'atris. And on the morrow they returned to the barracks, leaving the horsemen to go on with him. When they came to Caesare'a and delivered the letter to the governor, they presented Paul also before him. On reading the letter, he asked to what province he belonged. When he learned that he was from Cili'cia he said, “I will hear you when your accusers arrive.” And he commanded him to be guarded in Herod's praetorium.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.