

# YEAR 1, PROPER 19, FRIDAY: EVENING PRAYER

## For use with the First Lesson

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

Ahasu-er'us	uh-haz-yuu-AIR-uhs
Su'sa	SUU-suh
Me'dia	MEE-dee-uh
Mehu'man	mi-HYUU-muhn
Biz'tha	BIZ-thuh
Harbo'na	har-BOH-nuh
Big'tha	BIG-thuh
Abag'tha	uh-BAG-thuh
Ze'thar	ZEE-thahr
Car'kas	KAR-kuhs
Vash'ti	VASH-tigh
Memu'can	mi-MYUU-kan
Carshe'na	kahr-SHEE-nah
She'thar	SHEE-thahr
Adma'tha	ad-MAY-thah
Me'res	MEE-res
Marse'na	mahr-SEE-nah

*Please turn the page for the First Lesson.*

YEAR 1, PROPER 19, FRIDAY: EVENING PRAYER  
ESTHER 1:1–4, 10–19; MATTHEW 5:11–16

*MATTHEW 7:28 MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS SPEAKING TO THE CROWDS AND TO HIS DISCIPLES.*

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

## **A Reading from the Book of Esther**

In the days of Ahasu-er'us, the Ahasu-er'us who reigned from India to Ethiopia over one hundred and twenty-seven provinces, in those days when King Ahasu-er'us sat on his royal throne in Su'sa the capital, in the third year of his reign he gave a banquet for all his princes and servants, the army chiefs of Persia and Me'dia and the nobles and governors of the provinces being before him, while he showed the riches of his royal glory and the splendor and pomp of his majesty for many days, a hundred and eighty days. On the seventh day, when the heart of the king was merry with wine, he commanded Mehu'man, Biz'tha, Harbo'na, Big'tha and Abag'tha, Ze'thar and Car'kas, the seven eunuchs who served King Ahasu-er'us as chamberlains, to bring Queen Vashti before the king with her royal crown, in order to show the peoples and the princes her beauty; for she was fair to behold. But Queen Vashti refused to come at the king's command conveyed by the eunuchs. At this the king was enraged, and his anger burned within him. Then the king said to the wise men who knew the times—for this was the king's procedure toward all who were versed in law and judgment, the men next to him

YEAR 1, PROPER 19, FRIDAY: EVENING PRAYER  
ESTHER 1:1–4, 10–19; MATTHEW 5:11–16

*MATTHEW 7:28 MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS SPEAKING TO THE CROWDS AND TO HIS DISCIPLES.*

being Carshe'na, She'thar, Adma'tha, Tarshish, Me'res, Marse'na, and Memu'can, the seven princes of Persia and Me'dia, who saw the king's face, and sat first in the kingdom—: “According to the law, what is to be done to Queen Vashti, because she has not performed the command of King Ahasu-er'us conveyed by the eunuchs?” Then Memu'can said in presence of the king and the princes, “Not only to the king has Queen Vashti done wrong, but also to all the princes and all the peoples who are in all the provinces of King Ahasu-er'us. For this deed of the queen will be made known to all women, causing them to look with contempt upon their husbands, since they will say, ‘King Ahasu-er'us commanded Queen Vashti to be brought before him, and she did not come.’ This very day the ladies of Persia and Me'dia who have heard of the queen's behavior will be telling it to all the king's princes, and there will be contempt and wrath in plenty. If it please the king, let a royal order go forth from him, and let it be written among the laws of the Persians and the Medes so that it may not be altered, that Vashti is to come no more before King Ahasu-er'us; and let the king give her royal position to another who is better than she.”

*The Reader concludes*

*The Word of the Lord.*

YEAR 1, PROPER 19, FRIDAY: EVENING PRAYER  
ESTHER 1:1–4, 10–19; MATTHEW 5:11–16

*MATTHEW 7:28 MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS SPEAKING TO THE CROWDS AND TO HIS DISCIPLES.*

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew**

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you. You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trodden under foot by men. You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. Nor do men light a lamp and put it under a bushel, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.