

YEAR 1, PROPER 19, SATURDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Su'sa	SUU-suh
Ja'ir	JAY-ur
Shim'e-i	SHIM-ee-igh
Jeconiah	jek-uh-NIGH-uh
Nebuchadnezzar	ne-buh-kuhd-NEZ-ur
Hadas'sah	huh-DAS-uh
Heg'a-i	HEG-ay-igh
Ab'i-hail	AB-i-hayl
Ahasuerus	uh-haz-yuu-AIR-uhs
Vash'ti	VASH-tigh
Te'beth	TEE-beth
Te'resh	TEE-resch

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Esther

Now there was a Jew in Su'sa the capital whose name was Mor'decai, the son of Ja'ir, son of Shim'e-i, son of Kish, a Benjaminite, who had been carried away from Jerusalem among the captives carried away with

YEAR 1, PROPER 19, SATURDAY: EVENING PRAYER
ESTHER 2:5–8, 15–23; MATTHEW 5:17-20

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

Jeconiah king of Judah, whom Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon had carried away. He had brought up Hadasah, that is Esther, the daughter of his uncle, for she had neither father nor mother; the maiden was beautiful and lovely, and when her father and her mother died, Mordecai adopted her as his own daughter. So when the king's order and his edict were proclaimed, and when many maidens were gathered in Susa the capital in custody of Hegai, Esther also was taken into the king's palace and put in custody of Hegai who had charge of the women. When the turn came for Esther the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had adopted her as his own daughter, to go in to the king, she asked for nothing except what Hegai the king's eunuch, who had charge of the women, advised. Now Esther found favor in the eyes of all who saw her. And when Esther was taken to King Ahasuerus into his royal palace in the tenth month, which is the month of Tebeth, in the seventh year of his reign, the king loved Esther more than all the women, and she found grace and favor in his sight more than all the virgins, so that he set the royal crown on her head and made her queen instead of Vashti. Then the king gave a great banquet to all his princes and servants; it was Esther's banquet. He also

YEAR 1, PROPER 19, SATURDAY: EVENING PRAYER
ESTHER 2:5–8, 15–23; MATTHEW 5:17-20

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

granted a remission of taxes to the provinces, and gave gifts with royal liberality. When the virgins were gathered together the second time, Mor'decai was sitting at the king's gate. Now Esther had not made known her kindred or her people, as Mor'decai had charged her; for Esther obeyed Mor'decai just as when she was brought up by him. And in those days, as Mor'decai was sitting at the king's gate, Big'than and Te'resh, two of the king's eunuchs, who guarded the threshold, became angry and sought to lay hands on King Ahasu-er'us. And this came to the knowledge of Mor'decai, and he told it to Queen Esther, and Esther told the king in the name of Mor'decai. When the affair was investigated and found to be so, the men were both hanged on the gallows. And it was recorded in the Book of the Chronicles in the presence of the king.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, “Think not that I have come to abolish the law and the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfil

YEAR 1, PROPER 19, SATURDAY: EVENING PRAYER
ESTHER 2:5–8, 15–23; MATTHEW 5:17-20

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

them. For truly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Whoever then relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but he who does them and teaches them shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.