

YEAR 1, PROPER 20, THURSDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ha'man

HAY-muhn

Ahasu-e'rus

uh-haz-yuu-EE-ruhs

Harbo'na

har-BOH-nuh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Esther

So the king and Ha'man went in to feast with Queen Esther. And on the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request. For we are sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be slain, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; for our

YEAR 1, PROPER 20, THURSDAY: EVENING PRAYER
ESTHER 7:1–10; MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–18

*JUDITH IS READ IN DAILY OFFICE LECTIONARY YEAR TWO.
MATTHEW 7:28 MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS SPEAKING TO THE CROWDS AND TO HIS DISCIPLES.*

affliction is not to be compared with the loss to the king.” Then King Ahasu-er'us said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, that would presume to do this?” And Esther said, “A foe and enemy! This wicked Ha'man!” Then Ha'man was in terror before the king and the queen. And the king rose from the feast in wrath and went into the palace garden; but Ha'man stayed to beg his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that evil was determined against him by the king. And the king returned from the palace garden to the place where they were drinking wine, as Ha'man was falling on the couch where Esther was; and the king said, “Will he even assault the queen in my presence, in my own house?” As the words left the mouth of the king, they covered Ha'man's face. Then said Harbo'na, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, “Moreover, the gallows which Ha'man has prepared for Mor'decai, whose word saved the king, is standing in Ha'man's house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” So they hanged Ha'man on the gallows which he had prepared for Mor'decai. Then the anger of the king abated.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

YEAR 1, PROPER 20, THURSDAY: EVENING PRAYER
ESTHER 7:1–10; MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–18

JUDITH IS READ IN DAILY OFFICE LECTIONARY YEAR TWO.
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, “Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven. Thus, when you give alms, sound no trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may be praised by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. And when you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by men. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that

YEAR 1, PROPER 20, THURSDAY: EVENING PRAYER
ESTHER 7:1–10; MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–18

*JUDITH IS READ IN DAILY OFFICE LECTIONARY YEAR TWO.
MATTHEW 7:28 MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS SPEAKING TO THE CROWDS AND TO HIS DISCIPLES.*

your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

YEAR 1, PROPER 20, THURSDAY: EVENING PRAYER
ESTHER 7:1–10; MATTHEW 6:1–6, 16–18

*JUDITH IS READ IN DAILY OFFICE LECTIONARY YEAR TWO.
MATTHEW 7:28 MAKES IT CLEAR THAT JESUS IS SPEAKING TO THE CROWDS AND TO HIS DISCIPLES.*