

YEAR 1, PROPER 20, FRIDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ha'man

HAY-muhn

Ahasu-er'us

uh-haz-yuu-AIR-uhs

Hammeda'tha

ham-i-DAY-thuh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Esther

On that day that Ha'man was hanged on the gallows, King Ahasu-er'us gave to Queen Esther the house of Ha'man, the enemy of the Jews. And Mor'decai came before the king, for Esther had told what he was to her; and the king took off his signet ring, which he had taken from Ha'man, and gave it to Mor'decai. And Esther set Mor'decai over the house of Ha'man. Then Esther spoke again to the king; she fell at his feet and besought him with tears to avert the evil design of Ha'man the Ag'agite and the plot which he had devised against the Jews. And the king held out the golden scepter to Esther, and Esther rose and stood

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ESTHER 8:1–8, 15–17; MATTHEW 6:7–15

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before the king. And she said, “If it please the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seem right before the king, and I be pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the letters devised by Ha'man the Ag'agite, the son of Hammeda'tha, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the provinces of the king. For how can I endure to see the calamity that is coming to my people? Or how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?” Then King Ahasu-er'us said to Queen Esther and to Mor'decai the Jew, “Behold, I have given Esther the house of Ha'man, and they have hanged him on the gallows, because he would lay hands on the Jews. And you may write as you please with regard to the Jews, in the name of the king, and seal it with the king's ring; for an edict written in the name of the king and sealed with the king's ring cannot be revoked.” Then Mor'decai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a great golden crown and a mantle of fine linen and purple, while the city of Su'sa shouted and rejoiced. The Jews had light and gladness and joy and honor. And in every province and in every city, wherever the king's command and his edict came,

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there was gladness and joy among the Jews, a feast and a holiday. And many from the peoples of the country declared themselves Jews, for the fear of the Jews had fallen upon them.

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, “In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our debts, As we also have forgiven our debtors; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father also will forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

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