

YEAR 1, PROPER 21, THURSDAY: EVENING PRAYER

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Hosea

Blow the horn in Gib'e-ah, the trumpet in Ramah.
Sound the alarm at Beth-a'ven; tremble, O Benjamin!
E'phraim shall become a desolation in the day of
punishment; among the tribes of Israel I declare what
is sure. The princes of Judah have become like those
who remove the landmark; upon them I will pour out
my wrath like water. E'phraim is oppressed, crushed in
judgment, because he was determined to go after
vanity. Therefore I am like a moth to E'phraim, and
like dry rot to the house of Judah. When E'phraim
saw his sickness, and Judah his wound, then E'phraim
went to Assyria, and sent to the great king. But he is
not able to cure you or heal your wound. For I will be
like a lion to E'phraim, and like a young lion to the
house of Judah. I, even I, will rend and go away, I will
carry off, and none shall rescue. I will return again to
my place, until they acknowledge their guilt and seek
my face, and in their distress they seek me, saying,
“Come, let us return to the LORD; for he has torn, that
he may heal us; he has stricken, and he will bind us up.
After two days he will revive us; on the third day he

will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD; his going forth is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”

What shall I do with you, O E'phraim? What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your love is like a morning cloud, like the dew that goes early away. Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of my mouth, and my judgment goes forth as the light. For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God, rather than burnt offerings.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

Jesus opened his mouth and taught his disciples, saying, “On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you evildoers.’ Every one then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house upon the rock; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not

fall, because it had been founded on the rock. And every one who hears these words of mine and does not do them will be like a foolish man who built his house upon the sand; and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell; and great was the fall of it.” And when Jesus finished these sayings, the crowds were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as their scribes.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.