

YEAR 1, PROPER 21, FRIDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

| | |
|-------------|----------------------|
| Hosea | hoh-ZAY-uh |
| Beth-a'ven | beth-HAY-vuhn |
| E'phraim | EE-fray-im |
| A'ven | AY-ven |
| Gib'e-ah | GIB-ee-uh (hard “G”) |
| Beth-ar'bel | beth-AHR-bel |

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Hosea

Israel is a luxuriant vine that yields its fruit. The more his fruit increased the more altars he built; as his country improved he improved his pillars. Their heart is false; now they must bear their guilt. The LORD will break down their altars, and destroy their pillars. For now they will say: “We have no king, for we fear not the LORD, and a king, what could he do for us?” They utter mere words; with empty oaths they make covenants; so judgment springs up like poisonous weeds in the furrows of the field. The inhabitants of Sama'ria tremble for the calf of Beth-a'ven. Its people

shall mourn for it, and its idolatrous priests shall wail over it, over its glory which has departed from it. Yea, the thing itself shall be carried to Assyria, as tribute to the great king. E'phraim shall be put to shame, and Israel shall be ashamed of his idol. Sama'ria's king shall perish, like a chip on the face of the waters. The high places of A'ven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed. Thorn and thistle shall grow up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us, and to the hills, Fall upon us. From the days of Gib'e-ah, you have sinned, O Israel; there they have continued. Shall not war overtake them in Gib'e-ah? I will come against the wayward people to chastise them; and nations shall be gathered against them when they are chastised for their double iniquity. E'phraim was a trained heifer that loved to thresh, and I spared her fair neck; but I will put E'phraim to the yoke, Judah must plow, Jacob must harrow for himself. Sow for yourselves righteousness, reap the fruit of steadfast love; break up your fallow ground, for it is the time to seek the LORD, that he may come and rain salvation upon you. You have plowed iniquity, you have reaped injustice, you have eaten the fruit of lies. Because you have trusted in your chariots and in the multitude of your warriors, therefore the tumult of war shall arise among your people, and all your fortresses shall be destroyed,

as Shal'man destroyed Beth-ar'bel on the day of battle;
mothers were dashed in pieces with their children.
Thus it shall be done to you, O house of Israel,
because of your great wickedness. In the storm the
king of Israel shall be utterly cut off.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

For use with the Second Lesson

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

Caper'na-um

kuh-PUR-nay-uhm

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew

When Jesus came down from the mountain, great crowds followed him; and behold, a leper came to him and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, if you will, you can make me clean.” And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to any one; but go, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to the people.” As he entered Caper'na-um, a centurion came forward to

him, beseeching him and saying, “Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, in terrible distress.” And he said to him, “I will come and heal him.” But the centurion answered him, “Lord, I am not worthy to have you come under my roof; but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, with soldiers under me; and I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” When Jesus heard him, he marveled, and said to those who followed him, “Truly, I say to you, not even in Israel have I found such faith. I tell you, many will come from east and west and sit at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness; there men will weep and gnash their teeth.” And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; be it done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment. And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever; he touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and served him. That evening they brought to him many who were possessed with demons; and he cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfil what was

spoken by the prophet Isaiah, “He took our infirmities
and bore our diseases.”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.