

**YEAR 1, PROPER 21, SATURDAY: MORNING  
PRAYER**

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Second Book of the Kings**

Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezeki'ah, saying,  
“This is the word that the LORD has spoken  
concerning Sennach'erib, king of Assyria: She despises  
you, she scorns you—the virgin daughter of Zion; she  
wags her head behind you—the daughter of  
Jerusalem. Whom have you mocked and reviled?  
Against whom have you raised your voice and  
haughtily lifted your eyes? Against the Holy One of  
Israel! By your messengers you have mocked the  
LORD, and you have said, ‘With my many chariots I  
have gone up the heights of the mountains, to the far  
recesses of Lebanon; I felled its tallest cedars, its  
choicest cypresses; I entered its farthest retreat, its  
densest forest. I dug wells and drank foreign waters,  
and I dried up with the sole of my foot all the streams  
of Egypt.’ Have you not heard that I determined it  
long ago? I planned from days of old what now I  
bring to pass, that you should turn fortified cities into  
heaps of ruins, while their inhabitants, shorn of  
strength, are dismayed and confounded, and have

become like plants of the field, and like tender grass, like grass on the housetops; blighted before it is grown? But I know your sitting down and your going out and coming in, and your raging against me. Because you have raged against me and your arrogance has come into my ears, I will put my hook in your nose and my bit in your mouth, and I will turn you back on the way by which you came. And this shall be the sign for you: this year you shall eat what grows of itself, and in the second year what springs of the same; then in the third year sow, and reap, and plant vineyards, and eat their fruit. And the surviving remnant of the house of Judah shall again take root downward, and bear fruit upward; for out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the LORD will do this. Therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king of Assyria, He shall not come into this city or shoot an arrow there, or come before it with a shield or cast up a siege mound against it. By the way that he came, by the same he shall return, and he shall not come into this city, says the LORD. For I will defend this city to save it, for my own sake and for the sake of my servant David.” And that night the angel of the LORD went forth, and slew a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the camp of the Assyrians; and when men arose early in the morning,

behold, these were all dead bodies. Then Sennach'erib king of Assyria departed, and went home, and dwelt at Nin'veeh.

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

## **A Reading from the**

### **First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same supernatural food and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things are warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to dance." We must not indulge in immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents; nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now

these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.