

**YEAR 1, PROPER 23, WEDNESDAY:  
EVENING PRAYER**

**For use with the First Lesson**

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

She'ol

SHEE-ol

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Book of Jonah**

And the LORD appointed a great fish to swallow up Jonah. Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights. Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the belly of the fish, saying, “I called to the LORD, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of She'ol I cried, and thou didst hear my voice. For thou didst cast me into the deep, into the heart of the seas, and the flood was round about me; all thy waves and thy billows passed over me. Then I said, ‘I am cast out from thy presence; how shall I again look upon thy holy temple?’ The waters closed in over me, the deep was round about me; weeds were wrapped about my head at the roots of the mountains. I went down to the land whose bars closed upon me for ever; yet thou didst bring up my life from the Pit, O LORD my God.

When my soul fainted within me, I remembered the LORD; and my prayer came to thee, into thy holy temple. Those who pay regard to vain idols forsake their true loyalty. But I with the voice of thanksgiving will sacrifice to thee; what I have vowed I will pay. Deliverance belongs to the LORD!” And the LORD spoke to the fish, and it vomited out Jonah upon the dry land.

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

## **For use with the Second Lesson**

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

Be-el'zebul

bee-EL-zuh-bul

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Gospel According to Matthew**

Jesus said to the twelve, “A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master; it is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Be-el'zebul, how much more will they malign those of his household. So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden

that will not be known. What I tell you in the dark,  
utter in the light; and what you hear whispered,  
proclaim upon the housetops. And do not fear those  
who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear  
him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are  
not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of  
them will fall to the ground without your Father's will.  
But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear  
not, therefore; you are of more value than many  
sparrows. So every one who acknowledges me before  
men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is  
in heaven; but whoever denies me before men, I also  
will deny before my Father who is in heaven."

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.