

**YEAR 2, PROPER 12, WEDNESDAY:
EVENING PRAYER**

For use with the First Lesson

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

He'bron	HEE-bruhn
Ner	NUR
Si'rah	SIGH-ruh
As'ahel	AS-uh-hel
Abi'shai	uh-BIGH-shigh
Zerui'ah	zer-uu-IGH-uh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

Just as David sent Abner away, the servants of David arrived with Jo'ab from a raid, bringing much spoil with them. But Abner was not with David at He'bron, for he had sent him away, and he had gone in peace. When Jo'ab and all the army that was with him came, it was told Jo'ab, “Abner the son of Ner came to the king, and he has let him go, and he has gone in peace.” Then Jo'ab went to the king and said, “What have you done? Behold, Abner came to you; why is it that you have sent him away, so that he is gone? You know that

Abner the son of Ner came to deceive you, and to know your going out and your coming in, and to know all that you are doing.” When Jo'ab came out from David's presence, he sent messengers after Abner, and they brought him back from the cistern of Si'rah; but David did not know about it. And when Abner returned to He'bron, Jo'ab took him aside into the midst of the gate to speak with him privately, and there he smote him in the belly, so that he died, for the blood of As'ahel his brother. Afterward, when David heard of it, he said, “I and my kingdom are for ever guiltless before the LORD for the blood of Abner the son of Ner. May it fall upon the head of Jo'ab, and upon all his father's house; and may the house of Jo'ab never be without one who has a discharge, or who is leprous, or who holds a spindle, or who is slain by the sword, or who lacks bread!” So Jo'ab and Abi'shai his brother slew Abner, because he had killed their brother As'ahel in the battle at Gibeon. Then David said to Jo'ab and to all the people who were with him, “Rend your clothes, and gird on sackcloth, and mourn before Abner.” And King David followed the bier. They buried Abner at He'bron; and the king lifted up his voice and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept. And the king lamented for Abner, saying, “Should Abner die as a fool dies? Your hands were

not bound, your feet were not fettered; as one falls before the wicked you have fallen.” And all the people wept again over him. Then all the people came to persuade David to eat bread while it was yet day; but David swore, saying, “God do so to me and more also, if I taste bread or anything else till the sun goes down!” And all the people took notice of it, and it pleased them; as everything that the king did pleased all the people. So all the people and all Israel understood that day that it had not been the king’s will to slay Abner the son of Ner. And the king said to his servants, “Do you not know that a prince and a great man has fallen this day in Israel? And I am this day weak, though anointed king; these men the sons of Zerui’ah are too hard for me. The LORD requite the evildoer according to his wickedness!”

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Please turn the page for the Second Lesson.

For use with the Second Lesson

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

The-oph'ilus

the-AHF-uh-luhs
("the" as in "theory")

Jude'a

juu-DEE-uh

Alphae'us

al-FEE-uhs

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

In the first book, O The-oph'ilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commandment through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. To them he presented himself alive after his passion by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days, and speaking of the kingdom of God. And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them,

“It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Jude'a and Sama'ria and to the end of the earth.”

And when he had said this, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.” Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away; and when they had entered, they went up to the upper room, where they were staying, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphae'us and Simon the Zealot and Judas the son of James. All these with one accord devoted themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.