

YEAR 2, PROPER 14, SUNDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ta'mar

TAY-mahr

Jon'adab

JAHN-uh-dab

Shim'e-ah

SHIM-i-uh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

Now Ab'salom, David's son, had a beautiful sister, whose name was Ta'mar; and after a time Am'non, David's son, loved her. And Am'non was so tormented that he made himself ill because of his sister Ta'mar; for she was a virgin, and it seemed impossible to Am'non to do anything to her. But Am'non had a friend, whose name was Jon'adab, the son of Shim'e-ah, David's brother; and Jon'adab was a very crafty man. And he said to him, "O son of the king, why are you so haggard morning after morning? Will you not tell me?" Am'non said to him, "I love Ta'mar, my brother Ab'salom's sister." Jon'adab said to him, "Lie down on your bed, and pretend to be ill; and when your father comes to see you, say to him,

‘Let my sister Ta'mar come and give me bread to eat, and prepare the food in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it from her hand.’ ” So Am'non lay down, and pretended to be ill; and when the king came to see him, Am'non said to the king, “Pray let my sister Ta'mar come and make a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat from her hand.” Then David sent home to Ta'mar, saying, “Go to your brother Am'non's house, and prepare food for him.” So Ta'mar went to her brother Am'non's house, where he was lying down. And she took dough, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and baked the cakes. And she took the pan and emptied it out before him, but he refused to eat. And Am'non said, “Send out every one from me.” So every one went out from him. Then Am'non said to Ta'mar, “Bring the food into the chamber, that I may eat from your hand.” And Ta'mar took the cakes she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Am'non her brother. But when she brought them near him to eat, he took hold of her, and said to her, “Come, lie with me, my sister.” She answered him, “No, my brother, do not force me; for such a thing is not done in Israel; do not do this wanton folly. As for me, where could I carry my shame? And as for you, you would be as one of the wanton fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray you,

speak to the king; for he will not withhold me from you.” But he would not listen to her; and being stronger than she, he forced her, and lay with her. Then Am'non hated her with very great hatred; so that the hatred with which he hated her was greater than the love with which he had loved her. And Am'non said to her, “Arise, be gone.” But she said to him, “No, my brother; for this wrong in sending me away is greater than the other which you did to me.” But he would not listen to her. He called the young man who served him and said, “Put this woman out of my presence, and bolt the door after her.” Now she was wearing a long robe with sleeves; for thus were the virgin daughters of the king clad of old. So his servant put her out, and bolted the door after her. And Ta'mar put ashes on her head, and rent the long robe which she wore; and she laid her hand on her head, and went away, crying aloud as she went. And her brother Ab'salom said to her, “Has Am'non your brother been with you? Now hold your peace, my sister; he is your brother; do not take this to heart.” So Ta'mar dwelt, a desolate woman, in her brother Ab'salom's house. When King David heard of all these things, he was very angry. But Ab'salom spoke to Am'non neither

good nor bad; for Ab'salom hated Am'non, because he had forced his sister Ta'mar.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the

Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

But whatever any one dares to boast of—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast of that. Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they descendants of Abraham? So am I. Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I have received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I have been beaten with rods; once I was stoned. Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other

things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness. The God and Father of the Lord Jesus, he who is blessed for ever, knows that I do not lie.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.