

**YEAR 2, PROPER 14, THURSDAY: EVENING
PRAYER**

For use with the First Lesson

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

He'bron	HEE-bruhn
Ge'shur	GEE-shur (hard "G")
Ar'am	Ar-uhm
Ahith'ophel	uh-HITH-oh-fel
Gi'lonite	GIGH-lo-night
Gi'loh	GIGH-low
Cher'ethites	KER-i-thights
Pel'ethites	PEL-uh-thights
Git'tites	GIT-ights (hard "G")

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

After this Ab'salom got himself a chariot and horses, and fifty men to run before him. And Ab'salom used to rise early and stand beside the way of the gate; and when any man had a suit to come before the king for judgment, Ab'salom would call to him, and say, "From what city are you?" And when he said, "Your servant is of such and such a tribe in Israel," Ab'salom would

say to him, “See, your claims are good and right; but there is no man deputed by the king to hear you.” Ab'salom said moreover, “Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a suit or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice.” And whenever a man came near to do obeisance to him, he would put out his hand, and take hold of him, and kiss him. Thus Ab'salom did to all of Israel who came to the king for judgment; so Ab'salom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. And at the end of four years Ab'salom said to the king, “Pray let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed to the LORD, in He'bron. For your servant vowed a vow while I dwelt at Ge'shur in Ar'am, saying, ‘If the LORD will indeed bring me back to Jerusalem, then I will offer worship to the LORD.’ ” The king said to him, “Go in peace.” So he arose, and went to He'bron. But Ab'salom sent secret messengers throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, “As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then say, ‘Ab'salom is king at He'bron!’ ” With Ab'salom went two hundred men from Jerusalem who were invited guests, and they went in their simplicity, and knew nothing. And while Ab'salom was offering the sacrifices, he sent for Ahith'ophel the Gi'lonite, David's counselor, from his city Gi'loh. And the conspiracy grew strong, and the people with Ab'salom kept increasing. And a

messenger came to David, saying, “The hearts of the men of Israel have gone after Ab'salom.” Then David said to all his servants who were with him at Jerusalem, “Arise, and let us flee; or else there will be no escape for us from Ab'salom; go in haste, lest he overtake us quickly, and bring down evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.” And the king’s servants said to the king, “Behold, your servants are ready to do whatever my lord the king decides.” So the king went forth, and all his household after him. And the king left ten concubines to keep the house. And the king went forth, and all the people after him; and they halted at the last house. And all his servants passed by him; and all the Cher'ethites, and all the Pel'ethites, and all the six hundred Gittites who had followed him from Gath, passed on before the king. *The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.

For use with the Second Lesson

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

Har'an

HAIR-un

Chalde'ans

kal-DEE-uhns

Ha'mor

HAY-more

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

And gazing at Stephen, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel. And the high priest said, “Is this so?” And Stephen said: “Brethren and fathers, hear me. The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopota'mia, before he lived in Har'an, and said to him, ‘Depart from your land and from your kindred and go into the land which I will show you.’ Then he departed from the land of the Chalde'ans, and lived in Har'an. And after his father died, God removed him from there into this land in which you are now living; yet he gave him no inheritance in it, not even a foot's length, but promised to give it to him in possession and to his posterity after him, though he had no child. And God spoke to this effect, that his posterity would be aliens in a land belonging to others, who would

enslave them and ill-treat them four hundred years. 'But I will judge the nation which they serve,' said God, 'and after that they shall come out and worship me in this place.' And he gave him the covenant of circumcision. And so Abraham became the father of Isaac, and circumcised him on the eighth day; and Isaac became the father of Jacob, and Jacob of the twelve patriarchs. And the patriarchs, jealous of Joseph, sold him into Egypt; but God was with him, and rescued him out of all his afflictions, and gave him favor and wisdom before Pharaoh, king of Egypt, who made him governor over Egypt and over all his household. Now there came a famine throughout all Egypt and Canaan, and great affliction, and our fathers could find no food. But when Jacob heard that there was grain in Egypt, he sent forth our fathers the first time. And at the second visit Joseph made himself known to his brothers, and Joseph's family became known to Pharaoh. And Joseph sent and called to him Jacob his father and all his kindred, seventy-five souls; and Jacob went down into Egypt. And he died, himself and our fathers, and they were carried back to Shechem and laid in the tomb that Abraham had bought for a sum of silver from the sons of Ha'mor in Shechem."

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.