**Year 2, Proper 15, Sunday: Evening Prayer**

**For use with the First Lesson**

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

Ahith'ophel uh-HITH-o-fel

Hu'shai HYUU-shigh

Beer-sheba beer-SHEE-buh

Za'dok ZAY-dahk

Abi'athar uh-BIGH-uh-thahr

En-ro'gel en-ROH-guhl

Ahim'a-az uh-HIM-ay-az

Bahu'rim bah-HYUU-rim

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

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

Moreover Ahith'ophel said to Ab'salom, “Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will set out and pursue David tonight. I will come upon him while he is weary and discouraged, and throw him into a panic; and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down the king only, and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace.” And the advice pleased Ab'salom and all the elders of Israel. Then Ab'salom said, “Call Hu'shai the Archite also, and let us hear what he has to say.” And when Hu'shai came to Ab'salom, Ab'salom said to him, “Thus has Ahith'ophel spoken; shall we do as he advises? If not, you speak.” Then Hu'shai said to Ab'salom, “This time the counsel which Ahith'ophel has given is not good.” Hu'shai said moreover, “You know that your father and his men are mighty men, and that they are enraged, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Besides, your father is expert in war; he will not spend the night with the people. Behold, even now he has hidden himself in one of the pits, or in some other place. And when some of the people fall at the first attack, whoever hears it will say, ‘There has been a slaughter among the people who follow Ab'salom.’ Then even the valiant man, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will utterly melt with fear; for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and that those who are with him are valiant men. But my counsel is that all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan to

Beer-sheba, as the sand by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person. So we shall come upon him in some place where he is to be found, and we shall light upon him as the dew falls on the ground; and of him and all the men with him not one will be left. If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we shall drag it into the valley, until not even a pebble is to be found there.” And Ab'salom and all the men of Israel said, “The counsel of Hu'shai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahith'ophel.” For the Lord had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahith'ophel, so that the Lord might bring evil upon Ab'salom. Then Hu'shai said to Za'dok and Abi'athar the priests, “Thus and so did Ahith'ophel counsel Ab'salom and the elders of Israel; and thus and so have I counseled. Now therefore send quickly and tell David, ‘Do not lodge tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means pass over; lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up.’ ” Now Jonathan and Ahim'a-az were waiting at En-ro'gel; a maidservant used to go and tell them, and they would go and tell King David; for they must not be seen entering the city. But a lad saw them, and told Ab'salom; so both of them went away quickly, and came to the house of a man at Bahu'rim, who had a well in his courtyard; and they went down into it. And the woman took and spread a covering over the well’s mouth, and scattered grain upon it; and nothing was known of it. When Ab'salom’s servants came to the woman at the house, they said, “Where are Ahim'a-az and Jonathan?” And the woman said to them, “They have gone over the brook of water.” And when they had sought and could not find them, they returned to Jerusalem. After they had gone, the men came up out of the well, and went and told King David. They said to David, “Arise, and go quickly over the water; for thus and so has Ahith'ophel counseled against you.” Then David arose, and all the people who were with him, and they crossed the Jordan; by daybreak not one was left who had not crossed the Jordan. When Ahith'ophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and went off home to his own city. And he set his house in order, and hanged himself; and he died, and was buried in the tomb of his father.

*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**

This is the third time I am coming to you. Any charge must be sustained by the evidence of two or three witnesses. I warned those who sinned before and all the others, and I warn them now while absent, as I did when present on my second visit, that if I come again I will not spare them—since you desire proof that Christ is speaking in me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful in you. For he was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we are weak in him, but in dealing with you we shall live with him by the power of God. Examine yourselves, to see whether you are holding to your faith. Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test! I hope you will find out that we have not failed. But we pray God that you may not do wrong—not that we may appear to have met the test, but that you may do what is right, though we may seem to have failed. For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth. For we are glad when we are weak and you are strong. What we pray for is your improvement. I write this while I am away from you, in order that when I come I may not have to be severe in my use of the authority which the Lord has given me for building up and not for tearing down. Finally, brethren, farewell. Mend your ways, heed my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you.

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.