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

**For use with the First Lesson**

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

Ma'ha-na'im MAY-hah-NAY-im Ama'sa uh-MAY-suh

Abi'athar uh-BIGH-uh-thahr

Na'hash NAY-hash

Zerui'ah zer-ruu-IGH-uh

Gil'ead GIL-ee-ad (hard “G”)

Sho'bi SHOH-bigh

Am'monites AM-ah-nights

Ma'chir MAY-kir

Am'miel AM-ee-el

Lo'-debar LOH-di-bar

Barzil'lai bar-ZIL-igh

Gil'eadite GIL-ee-uh-dight

Ro'gelim ROH-guh-lim

Abi'shai ah-BIGH-shigh

It'ta-i IT-tay-igh

Gittite GIT-tight (“G” is hard)

E'phraim EE-fray-im

***Please turn the page for the First Lesson.***

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

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

Then David came to Ma'ha-na'im. And Ab'salom crossed the Jordan with all the men of Israel. Now Ab'salom had set Ama'sa over the army instead of Jo'ab. Ama'sa was the son of a man named Ithra the Ish'maelite, who had married Ab'igal the daughter of Na'hash, sister of Zeru'iah, Jo'ab’s mother. And Israel and Ab'salom encamped in the land of Gil'ead. When David came to Ma'ha-na'im, Sho'bi the son of Na'hash from Rab'bah of the Am'monites, and Ma'chir the son of Am'miel from Lo'-debar, and Barzil'lai the

Gil'eadite from Ro'gelim, brought beds, basins, and earthen vessels, wheat, barley, meal, parched grain, beans and lentils, honey and curds and sheep and cheese from the herd, for David and the people with him to eat; for they said, “The people are hungry and weary and thirsty in the wilderness.” Then David mustered the men who were with him, and set over them commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds. And David sent forth the army, one third under the command of Jo'ab, one third under the command of Abi'shai the son of Zeru'iah, Jo'ab’s brother, and one third under the command of It'ta-i the Gittite. And the king said to the men, “I myself will also go out with you.” But the men said, “You shall not go out. For if we flee, they will not care about us. If half of us die, they will not care about us. But you are worth ten thousand of us; therefore it is better that you send us help from the city.” The king said to them, “Whatever seems best to you I will do.” So the king stood at the side of the gate, while all the army marched out by hundreds and by thousands. And the king ordered Jo'ab and Abi'shai and It'ta-i, “Deal gently for my sake with the young man Ab'salom.” And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Ab'salom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of E'phraim. And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword.

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles**

Stephen said to the high priest and to the council: “Our fathers had the tent of witness in the wilderness, even as he who spoke to Moses directed him to make it, according to the pattern that he had seen. Our fathers in turn brought it in with Joshua when they dispossessed the nations which God thrust out before our fathers. So it was until the days of David, who found favor in the sight of God and asked leave to find a habitation for the God of Jacob. But it was Solomon who built a house for him. Yet the Most High does not dwell in houses made with hands; as the prophet says, ‘Heaven is my throne, and earth my footstool. What house will you build for me, says the Lord, or what is the place of my rest? Did not my hand make all these things?’ You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.” Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God.” But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep. And Saul was consenting to his death.

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.