**Year 2, Proper 21, Wednesday:**

**Evening Prayer**

**For use with the First Lesson**

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

Hoshe'a hoh-SHEE-uh

E'lah EE-lah

Shalmane'ser shal-muh-NEE-sur

Ha'lah HAY-lah

Ha'bor HAY-bor

Go'zan GOH-zan

Sennach'erib si-NAK-ur-ib

Rab'saris RAB-suh-ris

Rab'shakeh RAB-shay-kuh

La'chish LAY-kish

Eli'akim e-LIGH-uh-kim

Hilki'ah hil-KIGH-uh

Sheb'nah SHEB-nuh

A'saph AY-saf

***Please turn the page for the first lesson.***

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

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

In the fourth year of King Hezeki'ah, which was the seventh year of Hoshe'a son of E'lah, king of Israel, Shalmane'ser king of Assyria came up against Sama'ria and besieged it and at the end of three years he took it. In the sixth year of Hezeki'ah, which was the ninth year of Hoshe'a king of Israel, Sama'ria was taken. The king of Assyria carried the Israelites away to Assyria, and put them in Ha'lah, and on the Ha'bor, the river of Go'zan, and in the cities of the Medes, because they did not obey the voice of the Lord their God but transgressed his covenant, even all that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded; they neither listened nor obeyed. In the fourteenth year of King Hezeki'ah Sennach'erib king of Assyria came up against all the fortified cities of Judah and took them. And Hezeki'ah king of Judah sent to the king of Assyria at La'chish, saying, “I have done wrong; withdraw from me; whatever you impose on me I will bear.” And the king of Assyria required of Hezeki'ah king of Judah three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. And Hezeki'ah gave him all the silver that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasuries of the king’s house. At that time Hezeki'ah stripped the gold from the doors of the temple of the Lord, and from the doorposts which Hezeki'ah king of Judah had overlaid and gave it to the king of Assyria. And the king of Assyria sent the Tartan, the Rab'saris, and the Rab'shakeh with a great army from La'chish to King Hezeki'ah at Jerusalem. And they went up and came to Jerusalem. When they arrived, they came and stood by the conduit of the upper pool, which is on the highway to the Fuller’s Field. And when they called for the king, there came out to them Eli'akim the son of Hilki'ah, who was over the household, and Sheb'nah the secretary, and Jo'ah the son of A'saph, the recorder. And the Rab'shakeh said to them, “Say to Hezeki'ah, ‘Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this confidence of yours? Do you think that mere words are strategy and power for war? On whom do you now rely, that you have rebelled against me? Behold, you are relying now on Egypt, that broken reed of a staff, which will pierce the hand of any man who leans on it. Such is Pharaoh king of Egypt to all who rely on him. But if you say to me, “We rely on the Lord our God,” is it not he whose high places and altars Hezeki'ah has removed, saying to Judah and to Jerusalem, “You shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem”? Come now, make a wager with my master the king of Assyria: I will give you two thousand horses, if you are able on your part to set riders upon them. How then can you repulse a single captain among the least of my master’s servants, when you rely on Egypt for chariots and for horsemen? Moreover, is it without the Lord that I have come up against this place to destroy it? The Lord said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it.’ ”

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.

**For use with the Second Lesson**

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

Caesare'a ses-uh-REE-uh

Mna'son M'NAY-son

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

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

After these days we made ready and went up to Jerusalem. And some of the disciples from Caesare'a went with us, bringing us to the house of Mna'son of Cyprus, an early disciple, with whom we should lodge. When we had come to Jerusalem, the brethren received us gladly. On the following day Paul went in with us to James; and all the elders were present. After greeting them, he related one by one the things that God had done among the Gentiles through his ministry. And when they heard it, they glorified God. And they said to him, “You see, brother, how many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed; they are all zealous for the law, and they have been told about you that you teach all the Jews who are among the Gentiles to forsake Moses, telling them not to circumcise their children or observe the customs. What then is to be done? They will certainly hear that you have come. Do therefore what we tell you. We have four men who are under a vow; take these men and purify yourself along with them and pay their expenses, so that they may shave their heads. Thus all will know that there is nothing in what they have been told about you but that you yourself live in observance of the law. But as for the Gentiles who have believed, we have sent a letter with our judgment that they should abstain from what has been sacrificed to idols and from blood and from what is strangled and from unchastity.” Then Paul took the men, and the next day he purified himself with them and went into the temple, to give notice when the days of purification would be fulfilled and the offering presented for every one of them.

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.