

YEAR 2, PROPER 26, MONDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Nehemi'ah	nee-huh-MIGH-uh
Sanbal'lat	san-BAL-uht
Tobi'ah	toh-BIGH-ah
Ge'shem	GEE-shem (hard “G”)
Hor'onite	HOR-uh-night
Shemai'ah	shi-MIGH-uh
Delai'ah	de-LIGH-uh
Mehet'abel	mi-HET-uh-bel
No-adi'ah	noh-uh-DIGH-uh
Elul	ě-LUUL
Shecani'ah	shek-uh-NIGH-uh
A'rah	AY-rah
Jehoha'nan	jeh-hoh-HAY-nan
Meshul'lam	me-shuu-luhm
Berechi'ah	bair-uh-KIGH-uh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Nehemiah

Now when it was reported to Sanbal'lat and Tobi'ah and to Ge'shem the Arab and to the rest of our

enemies that I had built the wall and that there was no breach left in it (although up to that time I had not set up the doors in the gates), Sanbal'lat and Ge'shem sent to me, saying, "Come and let us meet together in one of the villages in the plain of Ono." But they intended to do me harm. And I sent messengers to them, saying, "I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?" And they sent to me four times in this way and I answered them in the same manner. In the same way Sanbal'lat for the fifth time sent his servant to me with an open letter in his hand. In it was written, "It is reported among the nations, and Ge'shem also says it, that you and the Jews intend to rebel; that is why you are building the wall; and you wish to become their king, according to this report. And you have also set up prophets to proclaim concerning you in Jerusalem, 'There is a king in Judah.' And now it will be reported to the king according to these words. So now come, and let us take counsel together." Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say have been done, for you are inventing them out of your own mind." For they all wanted to frighten us, thinking, "Their hands will drop from the work, and it will not be done." But now, O God, strengthen thou my hands. Now when I went into the

house of Shemai'ah the son of Delai'ah, son of Mehet'abel, who was shut up, he said, "Let us meet together in the house of God, within the temple, and let us close the doors of the temple; for they are coming to kill you, at night they are coming to kill you." But I said, "Should such a man as I flee? And what man such as I could go into the temple and live? I will not go in." And I understood, and saw that God had not sent him, but he had pronounced the prophecy against me because Tobi'ah and Sanbal'lat had hired him. For this purpose he was hired, that I should be afraid and act in this way and sin, and so they could give me an evil name, in order to taunt me. Remember Tobi'ah and Sanbal'lat, O my God, according to these things that they did, and also the prophetess No-adi'ah and the rest of the prophets who wanted to make me afraid. So the wall was finished on the twenty-fifth day of the month Elūl, in fifty-two days. And when all our enemies heard of it, all the nations round about us were afraid and fell greatly in their own esteem; for they perceived that this work had been accomplished with the help of our God. Moreover in those days the nobles of Judah sent many letters to Tobi'ah, and Tobi'ah's letters came to them. For many in Judah were bound by oath to him, because he was the son-in-law of Shecani'ah the son of

A'rah: and his son Jehoha'nan had taken the daughter of Meshul'lam the son of Berechi'ah as his wife. Also they spoke of his good deeds in my presence, and reported my words to him. And Tobi'ah sent letters to make me afraid.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Revelation to John

Then I looked, and lo, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him a hundred and forty-four thousand who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder; the voice I heard was like the sound of harpers playing on their harps, and they sing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the hundred and forty-four thousand who had been redeemed from the earth. It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are chaste; it is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes; these have been redeemed from mankind as first fruits for God and the Lamb, and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are spotless.

Then I saw another angel flying in midheaven, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, for the hour of his judgment has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the fountains of water.” Another angel, a second, followed, saying, “Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who made all nations drink the wine of her impure passion.” And another angel, a third, followed them, saying with a loud voice, “If any one worships the beast and its image, and receives a mark on his forehead or on his hand, he also shall drink the wine of God’s wrath, poured unmixed into the cup of his anger, and he shall be tormented with fire and sulphur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up for ever and ever; and they have no rest, day or night, these worshipers of the beast and its image, and whoever receives the mark of its name.” Here is a call for the endurance of the saints, those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord henceforth.”

“Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!”

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.