

YEAR 2, PROPER 27, SATURDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Maccabees	MACK-uh-bees
Mattathi'as	ma-tuh-THIGH-us
Jo'arib	JOH-uh-rib
Mo'dein	MOE-din
Gad'di	GAD-igh
Thas'si	THAS-sigh
Maccabe'us	mack-uh-BEE-uhs
Elea'zar	el-ee-AY-zur
Av'aran	av-uh-ran
Ap'phus	AP-fuhs
Phin'ehas	FIN-ee-us
Zim'ri	ZIM-righ
Sa'lu	SAY-lu

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the First Book of the Maccabees

In those days Mattathi'as the son of John, son of Sim'eon, a priest of the sons of Jo'arib, moved from Jerusalem and settled in Mo'dein. He had five sons, John surnamed Gad'di, Simon called Thas'si, Judas

called Maccabe'us, Elea'zar called Av'aran, and Jonathan called Ap'phus. He saw the blasphemies being committed in Judah and Jerusalem, and said, “Alas! Why was I born to see this, the ruin of my people, the ruin of the holy city, and to dwell there when it was given over to the enemy, the sanctuary given over to aliens? Her temple has become like a man without honor; her glorious vessels have been carried into captivity. Her babes have been killed in her streets, her youths by the sword of the foe. What nation has not inherited her palaces and has not seized her spoils? All her adornment has been taken away; no longer free, she has become a slave. And behold, our holy place, our beauty, and our glory have been laid waste; the Gentiles have profaned it. Why should we live any longer?” And Mattathi'as and his sons rent their clothes, put on sackcloth, and mourned greatly. Then the king's officers who were enforcing the apostasy came to the city of Mo'dein to make them offer sacrifice. Many from Israel came to them; and Mattathi'as and his sons were assembled. Then the king's officers spoke to Mattathi'as as follows: “You are a leader, honored and great in this city, and supported by sons and brothers. Now be the first to come and do what the king commands, as all the Gentiles and the men of Judah and those that are left

in Jerusalem have done. Then you and your sons will be numbered among the friends of the king, and you and your sons will be honored with silver and gold and many gifts.” But Mattathi'as answered and said in a loud voice: “Even if all the nations that live under the rule of the king obey him, and have chosen to do his commandments, departing each one from the religion of his fathers, yet I and my sons and my brothers will live by the covenant of our fathers. Far be it from us to desert the law and the ordinances. We will not obey the king’s words by turning aside from our religion to the right hand or to the left.” When he had finished speaking these words, a Jew came forward in the sight of all to offer sacrifice upon the altar in Mo'dein, according to the king’s command. When Mattathi'as saw it, he burned with zeal and his heart was stirred. He gave vent to righteous anger; he ran and killed him upon the altar. At the same time he killed the king’s officer who was forcing them to sacrifice, and he tore down the altar. Thus he burned with zeal for the law, as Phin'ehas did against Zim'ri the son of Sa'lu. Then Mattathi'as cried out in the city with a loud voice, saying: “Let every one who is zealous for the law and supports the covenant come out with me!” And he

and his sons fled to the hills and left all that they had in the city.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Letter of James

My brethren, show no partiality as you hold the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man with gold rings and in fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while you say to the poor man, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brethren. Has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Is it not the rich who oppress you, is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme that honorable name which was invoked over you? If you really fulfil the royal law, according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well. But if you show partiality, you commit

sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it. For he who said, “Do not commit adultery,” said also, “Do not kill.” If you do not commit adultery but do kill, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so act as those who are to be judged under the law of liberty. For judgment is without mercy to one who has shown no mercy; yet mercy triumphs over judgment.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.