## Year 1, Lent 1, Wednesday: Evening Prayer

**For use with the First Lesson**

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

Adul'lamite uh-DUHL-uh-might

Hi'rah HIGH-ruh

Shu'a SHUU-uh

Er UR

O'nan OH-nan

Che'zib KEE-zib

Ta'mar TAY-mahr

Ena'im i-NAY-im

Per'ez PAIR-ez

Zer'ah ZAIR-uh

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from Genesis**

It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers, and turned in to a certain Adul'lamite, whose name was Hi'rah. There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shu'a; he married her and went in to her, and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er. Again she conceived and bore a son, and she called his name O'nan. Yet again she bore a son, and she called his name She'lah. She was in Che'zib when she bore him. And Judah took a wife for Er his first-born, and her name was Ta'mar. But Er, Judah’s first-born, was wicked in the sight of the Lord; and the Lord slew him. Then Judah said to O'nan, “Go in to your brother’s wife, and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother.” But O'nan knew that the offspring would not be his; so when he went in to his brother’s wife he spilled the seed on the ground, lest he should give offspring to his brother. And what he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord, and he slew him also. Then Judah said to Ta'mar his daughter-in-law, ‘Remain a widow in your father’s house, till She'lah my son grows up”—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Ta'mar went and dwelt in her father’s house. In course of time the wife of Judah, Shua’s daughter, died; and when Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hi'rah the Adul'lamite. And when Tamar was told, “Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep,” she put off her widow’s garments, and put on a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to

E-na'im, which is on the road to Timnah; for she saw that She'lah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage. When Judah saw her, he thought her to be a harlot, for she had covered her face. He went over to her at the road side, and said, “Come, let me come in to you,” for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, “What will you give me, that you may come in to me?” He answered, “I will send you a kid from the flock.” And she said, “Will you give me a pledge, till you send it?” He said, “What pledge shall I give you?” She replied, “Your signet and your cord, and your staff that is in your hand.” So he gave them to her, and went in to her, and she conceived by him. Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood. When Judah sent the kid by his friend the Adul'lamite, to receive the pledge from the woman’s hand, he could not find her. And he asked the men of the place, “Where is the harlot who was at E-na'im by the wayside?” And they said, “No harlot has been here.” So he returned to Judah, and said, “I have not found her; and also the men of the place said, ‘No harlot has been here.’ ” And Judah replied, “Let her keep the things as her own, lest we be laughed at; you see, I sent this kid, and you could not find her.” About three months later Judah was told, “Ta'mar your daughter-in-law has played the harlot; and moreover she is with child by harlotry.” And Judah said, “Bring her out, and let her be burned.” As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, “By the man to whom these belong, I am with child.” And she said, “Mark, I pray you, whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff.” Then Judah acknowledged them and said, “She is more righteous than I, inasmuch as I did not give her to my son She'lah.” And he did not lie with her again. When the time of her delivery came, there were twins in her womb. And when she was in labor, one put out a hand; and the midwife took and bound on his hand a scarlet thread, saying, “This came out first.” But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out; and she said, “What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore his name was called Per'ez. Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread upon his hand; and his name was called Zer'ah.

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Gospel according to John**

Now when Jesus was in Jerusalem at the Passover feast, many believed in his name when they saw the signs which he did; but Jesus did not trust himself to them, because he knew all men and needed no one to bear witness of man; for he himself knew what was in man. Now there was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicode'mus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do, unless God is with him.” Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” Nicode'mus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’ The wind blows where it wills, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know whence it comes or whither it goes; so it is with every one who is born of the Spirit.” Nicode'mus said to him, “How can this be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand this? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen; but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

*The Reader concludes* The Word of the Lord.