

YEAR 1, PROPER 15, SUNDAY: MORNING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ahith'ophel	uh-HITH-o-fel
Hu'shai	HUU-shigh
Za'dok	ZAY-dahk
Abi'athar	uh-BIGH-uh-thahr
Ahim'a-az	uh-HIM-ay-az
Bahu'rim	bah-HUU-rim

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

Moreover Ahith'ophel said to Ab'salom, “Let me choose twelve thousand men, and I will set out and pursue David tonight. I will come upon him while he is weary and discouraged, and throw him into a panic; and all the people who are with him will flee. I will strike down the king only, and I will bring all the people back to you as a bride comes home to her husband. You seek the life of only one man, and all the people will be at peace.” And the advice pleased Ab'salom and all the elders of Israel. Then Ab'salom said, “Call Hu'shai the Archite also, and let us hear

what he has to say.” And when Hu'shai came to Ab'salom, Ab'salom said to him, “Thus has Ahith'ophel spoken; shall we do as he advises? If not, you speak.” Then Hu'shai said to Ab'salom, “This time the counsel which Ahith'ophel has given is not good.” Hu'shai said moreover, “You know that your father and his men are mighty men, and that they are enraged, like a bear robbed of her cubs in the field. Besides, your father is expert in war; he will not spend the night with the people. Behold, even now he has hidden himself in one of the pits, or in some other place. And when some of the people fall at the first attack, whoever hears it will say, ‘There has been a slaughter among the people who follow Ab'salom.’ Then even the valiant man, whose heart is like the heart of a lion, will utterly melt with fear; for all Israel knows that your father is a mighty man, and that those who are with him are valiant men. But my counsel is that all Israel be gathered to you, from Dan to Beer-sheba, as the sand by the sea for multitude, and that you go to battle in person. So we shall come upon him in some place where he is to be found, and we shall light upon him as the dew falls on the ground; and of him and all the men with him not one will be left. If he withdraws into a city, then all Israel will bring ropes to that city, and we shall drag it into the valley, until

not even a pebble is to be found there.” And Ab'salom and all the men of Israel said, “The counsel of Hu'shai the Archite is better than the counsel of Ahith'ophel.” For the LORD had ordained to defeat the good counsel of Ahith'ophel, so that the LORD might bring evil upon Ab'salom. Then Hu'shai said to Za'dok and Abi'athar the priests, “Thus and so did Ahith'ophel counsel Ab'salom and the elders of Israel; and thus and so have I counseled. Now therefore send quickly and tell David, ‘Do not lodge tonight at the fords of the wilderness, but by all means pass over; lest the king and all the people who are with him be swallowed up.’ ” Now Jonathan and Ahim'a-az were waiting at En-ro'gel; a maidservant used to go and tell them, and they would go and tell King David; for they must not be seen entering the city. But a lad saw them, and told Ab'salom; so both of them went away quickly, and came to the house of a man at Bahu'rim, who had a well in his courtyard; and they went down into it. And the woman took and spread a covering over the well's mouth, and scattered grain upon it; and nothing was known of it. When Ab'salom's servants came to the woman at the house, they said, “Where are Ahim'a-az and Jonathan?” And the woman said to them, “They have gone over the brook of water.” And when they had sought and could not find them, they

returned to Jerusalem. After they had gone, the men came up out of the well, and went and told King David. They said to David, “Arise, and go quickly over the water; for thus and so has Ahith'ophel counseled against you.” Then David arose, and all the people who were with him, and they crossed the Jordan; by daybreak not one was left who had not crossed the Jordan. When Ahith'ophel saw that his counsel was not followed, he saddled his ass, and went off home to his own city. And he set his house in order, and hanged himself; and he died, and was buried in the tomb of his father.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the

Letter of Paul to the Galatians

Thus Abraham “believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” So you see that it is men of faith who are the sons of Abraham. And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, “In you shall all the nations be blessed.” So then, those who are men of faith are blessed with Abraham who had faith. For all who rely on works of

the law are under a curse; for it is written, “Cursed be every one who does not abide by all things written in the book of the law, and do them.” Now it is evident that no man is justified before God by the law; for “He who through faith is righteous shall live”; but the law does not rest on faith, for “He who does them shall live by them.” Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed be every one who hangs on a tree”—that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.