

YEAR 1, PROPER 19, FRIDAY: MORNING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ahazi'ah	ay-huh-ZIGH-uh
Ba'al-ze'bub	BAY-uhl-ZEE-buhb
Jeho'ram	ji-HO-ruhm
Jehosh'aphat	ji-HAHSH-uh-fat

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Second Book of the Kings

Now Ahazi'ah fell through the lattice in his upper chamber in Sama'ria, and lay sick; so he sent messengers, telling them, “Go, inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub, the god of Ekron, whether I shall recover from this sickness.” But the angel of the LORD said to Eli'jah the Tishbite, “Arise, go up to meet the messengers of the king of Sama'ria, and say to them, ‘Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going to inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub, the god of Ekron?’ Now therefore thus says the LORD, ‘You shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone, but you shall surely die.’” So Eli'jah went. The messengers returned to the king, and he said to them, “Why have you returned?”

And they said to him, “There came a man to meet us, and said to us, ‘Go back to the king who sent you, and say to him, Thus says the LORD, Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending to inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone, but shall surely die.’” He said to them, “What kind of man was he who came to meet you and told you these things?” They answered him, “He wore a garment of haircloth, with a girdle of leather about his loins.” And he said, “It is Eli'jah the Tishbite.” Then the king sent to him a captain of fifty men with his fifty. He went up to Eli'jah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, “O man of God, the king says, ‘Come down.’” But Eli'jah answered the captain of fifty, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then fire came down from heaven, and consumed him and his fifty. Again the king sent to him another captain of fifty men with his fifty. And he went up and said to him, “O man of God, this is the king's order, ‘Come down quickly!’” But Eli'jah answered them, “If I am a man of God, let fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty.” Then the fire of God came down from heaven and consumed him and his fifty. Again the king sent the captain of a third fifty with his fifty.

And the third captain of fifty went up, and came and fell on his knees before Eli'jah, and entreated him, “O man of God, I pray you, let my life, and the life of these fifty servants of yours, be precious in your sight. Lo, fire came down from heaven, and consumed the two former captains of fifty men with their fifties; but now let my life be precious in your sight.” Then the angel of the LORD said to Eli'jah, “Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.” So he arose and went down with him to the king, and said to him, “Thus says the LORD, ‘Because you have sent messengers to inquire of Ba'al-ze'bub, the god of Ekron,—is it because there is no God in Israel to inquire of his word?—therefore you shall not come down from the bed to which you have gone, but you shall surely die.’ ” So he died according to the word of the LORD which Eli'jah had spoken. Jeho'ram, his brother, became king in his stead in the second year of Jeho'ram the son of Jehosh'aphat, king of Judah, because Ahazi'ah had no son.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

**A Reading from the
First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are. Let no one deceive himself. If any one among you thinks that he is wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. For the wisdom of this world is folly with God. For it is written, "He catches the wise in their craftiness," and again, "The Lord knows that the thoughts of the wise are futile." So let no one boast of men. For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apol'los or Ce'phas or the world or life or death or the present or the future, all are yours; and you are Christ's; and Christ is God's.

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.