

**YEAR 2, ADVENT 2, SUNDAY:
EVENSONG & BENEDICTION**

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Let me sing for my beloved a love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dugged it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge, I pray you, between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briers and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant

planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, a cry!

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the

Second Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be made worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering—since indeed God deems it just to repay with affliction those who afflict you, and to grant rest with us to you who are afflicted, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance upon those who do not know God and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his call, and may fulfil every good resolve and work of faith by his power, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in

you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

At Eucharistic Benediction. The Reader begins

A Reading from Numbers

Ba'laam said to Ba'lak, “Did I not tell your messengers whom you sent to me, ‘If Ba'lak should give me his house full of silver and gold, I would not be able to go beyond the word of the LORD, to do either good or bad of my own will; what the LORD speaks, that will I speak’? And now, behold, I am going to my people; come, I will let you know what this people will do to your people in the latter days.” And Ba'laam took up his discourse, and said, “The oracle of Ba'laam the son of Be'or, the oracle of the man whose eye is opened, the oracle of him who hears the words of God, and knows the knowledge of the Most High, who sees the vision of the Almighty, falling down, but having his eyes uncovered: I see him, but not now; I behold him, but not nigh: a star shall come forth out of Jacob, and a scepter shall rise out of Israel.”

No concluding versicle is added after the reading at Benediction.