

YEAR 2, LENT 5, WEDNESDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

prophesied	PRAH-fi-side
Uz	UHZ
Ash'kelon	ASH-ke-lahn
E'dom	EE-duhm
Am'mon	AM-muhn
Si'don	SIGH-duhn
De'dan	DEE-dan
Te'ma	TEE-muh
Buz	BUHZ
Zim'ri	ZIM-righ
E'lam	EE-luhm
Me'dia	MEE-dee-uh
Prophecy	PRAH-fi-sigh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah

Thus the LORD, the God of Israel, said to me: “Take from my hand this cup of the wine of wrath, and make all the nations to whom I send you drink it. They shall

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JEREMIAH 25:15–38*; 2 CORINTHIANS 2:12–3:6

JEREMIAH 25:15–29 IS INCLUDED SO THAT WE HEAR THE COMPLETE STORY OF THE CUP OF WRATH.

drink and stagger and be crazed because of the sword which I am sending among them.” So I took the cup from the LORD hand, and made all the nations to whom the Lord sent me drink it: Jerusalem and the cities of Judah, its kings and princes, to make them a desolation and a waste, a hissing and a curse, as at this day; Pharaoh king of Egypt, his servants, his princes, all his people, and all the foreign folk among them; all the kings of the land of Uz and all the kings of the land of the Philistines (Ash'kelon, Gaza, Ekron, and the remnant of Ashdod); E'dom, Moab, and the sons of Am'mon; all the kings of Tyre, all the kings of Si'don, and the kings of the coastland across the sea; De'dan, Te'ma, Buz, and all who cut the corners of their hair; all the kings of Arabia and all the kings of the mixed tribes that dwell in the desert; all the kings of Zim'ri, all the kings of E'lam, and all the kings of Me'dia; all the kings of the north, far and near, one after another, and all the kingdoms of the world which are on the face of the earth. And after them the king of Babylon shall drink. Then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Drink, be drunk and vomit, fall and rise no more, because of the sword which I am sending among you.’ And if they refuse to accept the cup from your hand

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to drink, then you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts: You must drink! For behold, I begin to work evil at the city which is called by my name, and shall you go unpunished? You shall not go unpunished, for I am summoning a sword against all the inhabitants of the earth, says the LORD of hosts.’ You, therefore, shall prophesy against them all these words, and say to them: ‘The LORD will roar from on high, and from his holy habitation utter his voice; he will roar mightily against his fold, and shout, like those who tread grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. The clamor will resound to the ends of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against the nations; he is entering into judgment with all flesh, and the wicked he will put to the sword, says the LORD.’ Thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, evil is going forth from nation to nation, and a great tempest is stirring from the farthest parts of the earth! And those slain by the LORD on that day shall extend from one end of the earth to the other. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall be dung on the surface of the ground. Wail, you shepherds, and cry, and roll in ashes, you lords of the flock, for the days of your slaughter and dispersion have come, and you shall fall like choice rams. No refuge will remain

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for the shepherds, nor escape for the lords of the flock. Hark, the cry of the shepherds, and the wail of the lords of the flock! For the LORD is despoiling their pasture, and the peaceful folds are devastated, because of the fierce anger of the LORD. Like a lion he has left his covert, for their land has become a waste because of the sword of the oppressor, and because of his fierce anger.”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

For use with the Second Lesson

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

Tro'as

TROH-as

Macedo'nia

mas-uh-DOH-nee-uh

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the

Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

When I came to Tro'as to preach the gospel of Christ, a door was opened for me in the Lord; but my mind could not rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to

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Macedo'nia. But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumph, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word; but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on your hearts, to be known and read by all men; and you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. Such is the confidence that we have through Christ toward God. Not that we are competent of ourselves to claim anything as coming from us; our competence is from God, who has made us competent to be ministers of a new covenant, not in a written code but in the Spirit; for the written code kills, but the Spirit gives life.

The Reader concludes

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