

**YEAR 2, PROPER 14, WEDNESDAY:
EVENING PRAYER**

For use with the First Lesson

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

Ge'shur

GEE-shur (hard “G”)

Ta'mar

TAY-mar

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Second Book of Samuel

Then the king said to Jo'ab, “Behold now, I grant this; go, bring back the young man Ab'salom.” And Jo'ab fell on his face to the ground, and did obeisance, and blessed the king; and Jo'ab said, “Today your servant knows that I have found favor in your sight, my lord the king, in that the king has granted the request of his servant.” So Jo'ab arose and went to Ge'shur, and brought Ab'salom to Jerusalem. And the king said, “Let him dwell apart in his own house; he is not to come into my presence.” So Ab'salom dwelt apart in his own house, and did not come into the king's presence. Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his beauty as Ab'salom; from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head there was no

blemish in him. And when he cut the hair of his head (for at the end of every year he used to cut it; when it was heavy on him, he cut it), he weighed the hair of his head, two hundred shekels by the king's weight. There were born to Ab'salom three sons, and one daughter whose name was Ta'mar; she was a beautiful woman. So Ab'salom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, without coming into the king's presence. Then Ab'salom sent for Jo'ab, to send him to the king; but Jo'ab would not come to him. And he sent a second time, but Jo'ab would not come. Then he said to his servants, "See, Jo'ab's field is next to mine, and he has barley there; go and set it on fire." So Ab'salom's servants set the field on fire. Then Jo'ab arose and went to Ab'salom at his house, and said to him, "Why have your servants set my field on fire?" Ab'salom answered Jo'ab, "Behold, I sent word to you, 'Come here, that I may send you to the king, to ask, 'Why have I come from Geshur? It would be better for me to be there still.'" Now therefore let me go into the presence of the king; and if there is guilt in me, let him kill me.' " Then Jo'ab went to the king, and told him; and he summoned Ab'salom. So he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king; and the king kissed Ab'salom.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

For use with the Second Lesson

From *The Vocabulary of the Church* (1960):

Hellenists	HEL-uh-nists
Proch'orus	PRAHK-o-ruhs
Nica'nor	nigh-KAY-nawr
proselyte	PRAHS-uh-light
Ti'mon	TIGH-mahn
Par'menas	PAHR-mi-nas
Nicola'us	nik-o-LAY-uhs
Cyre'nians	sigh-REE-ni-uhns
Cili'cia	si-LISH-i-uh

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists murmured against the Hebrews because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the body of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brethren, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of

the word.” And what they said pleased the whole multitude, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Proch'orus, and Nica'nor, and Ti'mon, and Par'menas, and Nicola'us, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands upon them. And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith. And Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyre'nians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cili'cia and Asia, arose and disputed with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated men, who said, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council, and set up false witnesses who said, “This man never ceases to speak words against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place, and will change the customs which Moses

delivered to us.” And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.
The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.