

**YEAR 1, ADVENT 2, WEDNESDAY:
EVENING PRAYER**

For use with the First Lesson

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

e'phah

EE-fah

shekel

SHEK-uhl

Ash'imah

ASH-i-muh

Beer-sheba

beer-SHEE-buh

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Amos

Thus the Lord God showed me: behold, a basket of summer fruit. And he said, “Amos, what do you see?” And I said, “A basket of summer fruit.” Then the Lord said to me, “The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass by them. The songs of the temple shall become wailings in that day,” says the Lord God; “the dead bodies shall be many; in every place they shall be cast out in silence.” Hear this, you who trample upon the needy, and bring the poor of the land to an end, saying, “When will the new moon

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AMOS 8:1–14; JOHN 7:53–8:11*

THE GOSPEL READING IS INCLUDED BY SOME ANCIENT AUTHORITIES FOLLOWING LUKE 21:25 OR 21:38. ITS CANONICAL PLACE IS JOHN 7:53–8:11. THE PASSAGE IS ALSO APPOINTED TO BE READ THIS LECTONARY YEAR AT EVENING PRAYER ON DECEMBER 30.

be over, that we may sell grain? And the sabbath, that we may offer wheat for sale, that we may make the e'phah small and the shekel great, and deal deceitfully with false balances, that we may buy the poor for silver and the needy for a pair of sandals, and sell the refuse of the wheat?" The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: "Surely I will never forget any of their deeds. Shall not the land tremble on this account, and every one mourn who dwells in it, and all of it rise like the Nile, and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?" "And on that day," says the Lord God, "I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight. I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation; I will bring sackcloth upon all loins, and baldness on every head; I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day. Behold, the days are coming," says the Lord God, "when I will send a famine on the land; not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east; they shall run to and fro, to seek the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it. In that day the fair virgins and the young men shall faint for thirst. Those who

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swear by Ash'imah of Sama'ria, and say, 'As thy god lives, O Dan,' and, 'As the way of Beer-sheba lives,' they shall fall, and never rise again."

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

A Note to be read by the Reader of the Second Lesson:

This is a note the Reader is asked to read before beginning to read the second lesson. The reading appointed for tonight is not from Luke, but from John. We will return to Luke tomorrow. This passage is included by some important ancient manuscripts of Luke, but its canonical home is John.

It is appointed also to be read in this lectionary year at Evening Prayer on December 30, when we will be reading John.

Please turn the page for the Second Lesson.

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The Second Lesson. The Reader continues

A Reading from the Gospel according to John

They went each to his own house, but Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning he came again to the temple; all the people came to him, and he sat down and taught them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, “Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such. What do you say about her?” This they said to test him, that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and said to them, “Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.” And once more he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the eldest, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus looked up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No

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one, Lord.” And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.”

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

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