

YEAR 1, ADVENT 3, SATURDAY: EVENING PRAYER

For use with the First Lesson

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

Dari'us	duh-RIGH-uhs
Chis'lev	KIS-lev
Share'zer	shuh-REE-zur
Reg'em-mel'ech	REG-im-MEL-ek (hard “G”)

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Zechariah

In the fourth year of King Dari'us, the word of the LORD came to Zechari'ah in the fourth day of the ninth month, which is Chis'lev. Now the people of Bethel had sent Share'zer and Reg'em-mel'ech and their men, to entreat the favor of the LORD, and to ask the priests of the house of the LORD of hosts and the prophets, “Should I mourn and fast in the fifth month, as I have done for so many years?” Then the word of the LORD of hosts came to me; “Say to all the people of the land and the priests, When you fasted and mourned in the fifth month and in the seventh,

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ZECHARIAH 7:1-14; LUKE 3:1-9

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for these seventy years, was it for me that you fasted? And when you eat and when you drink, do you not eat for yourselves and drink for yourselves? When Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity, with her cities round about her, and the South and the lowland were inhabited, were not these the words which the LORD proclaimed by the former prophets?” And the word of the LORD came to Zechari'ah, saying, “Thus says the LORD of hosts, Render true judgments, show kindness and mercy each to his brother, do not oppress the widow, the fatherless, the sojourner, or the poor; and let none of you devise evil against his brother in your heart.” But they refused to hearken, and turned a stubborn shoulder, and stopped their ears that they might not hear. They made their hearts like adamant lest they should hear the law and the words which the LORD of hosts had sent by his Spirit through the former prophets. Therefore great wrath came from the LORD of hosts. “As I called, and they would not hear, so they called, and I would not hear,” says the LORD of hosts, “and I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations which they had not known. Thus the land they left was desolate, so that

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no one went to and fro, and the pleasant land was made desolate.”

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

For use with the Second Lesson

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

Tiber'i-as	tigh-BEER-ee-uhs
Jude'a	juu-DEE-uh
Iturae'a	it-ter-REE-uh
Trachoni'tis	trak-o-NIGH-tuhs
Lysa'ni-as	ligh-SAY-ni-uhs
Abile'ne	ab-i-LEE-nee
Cai'aphas	KIGH-uh-fus

The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiber'i-us Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Jude'a, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Iturae'a and Trachoni'tis, and Lysa'ni-as tetrarch of Abile'ne, in the high-priesthood

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of Annas and Cai'aphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechari'ah in the wilderness; and he went into all the region about the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God." He said therefore to the multitudes that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits that befit repentance, and do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

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