

**A reading from the book of Isaiah chapter 49 verses 1 through 18.**

Listen to me, O coastlands,  
and give attention, you peoples from afar.  
The Lord called me from the womb,  
from the body of my mother he named my name.  
He made my mouth like a sharp sword;  
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me a polished arrow;  
in his quiver he hid me away.  
And he said to me, "You are my servant,  
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."  
But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;  
yet surely my right is with the Lord,  
and my recompense with my God."

And now the Lord says,  
he who formed me from the womb to be his servant,  
to bring Jacob back to him;  
and that Israel might be gathered to him—  
for I am honored in the eyes of the Lord,  
and my God has become my strength—  
he says:  
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant  
to raise up the tribes of Jacob  
and to bring back the preserved of Israel;  
I will make you as a light for the nations,  
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."

Thus says the Lord,  
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,  
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nation,

the servant of rulers:

“Kings shall see and arise;  
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves;  
because of the Lord, who is faithful,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

Thus says the Lord:

“In a time of favor I have answered you;  
in a day of salvation I have helped you;  
I will keep you and give you  
as a covenant to the people,  
to establish the land,  
to apportion the desolate heritages,  
saying to the prisoners, ‘Come out,’  
to those who are in darkness, ‘Appear.’  
They shall feed along the ways;  
on all bare heights shall be their pasture;  
they shall not hunger or thirst,  
neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them,  
for he who has pity on them will lead them,  
and by springs of water will guide them.  
And I will make all my mountains a road,  
and my highways shall be raised up.  
Behold, these shall come from afar,  
and behold, these from the north and from the west,  
and these from the land of Syene.”

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!  
For the Lord has comforted his people  
and will have compassion on his afflicted.

But Zion said, “The Lord has forsaken me;  
my Lord has forgotten me.”

“Can a woman forget her nursing child,  
that she should have no compassion on the son  
of her womb?

Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.

Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.

Your builders make haste;  
your destroyers and those who laid you waste go out  
from you.

Lift up your eyes around and see;  
they all gather, they come to you.

As I live, declares the Lord,  
you shall put them all on as an ornament;  
you shall bind them on

**The Word of the Lord.**

***Thanks be to God.***

Please join me in praying Psalm 98

Leader: Oh sing to the Lord a new song,  
for he has done marvelous things!

**People: His right hand and his holy arm  
have worked salvation for him.**

Leader: The Lord has made known his salvation;  
he has revealed his righteousness  
in the sight of the nations.

**People: He has remembered his steadfast  
love and faithfulness  
to the house of Israel.**

Leader: All the ends of the earth have seen  
the salvation of our God.

**People: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises!**

Leader: Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody!

**People: With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord!**

Leader: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;  
the world and those who dwell in it!

**People: Let the rivers clap their hands;  
let the hills sing for joy together**

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Leader: before the Lord, for he comes  
to judge the earth.

**People: He will judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

**All: Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy  
Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be  
forever. Amen.**

**Leader: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.**

*(allow them time to stand)*

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Matthew.**

***People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again, until you say, ‘Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**Leader: The Gospel of the Lord**

***People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

**Leader: You may be seated.**