

## **A reading from the book of Isaiah**

For thus says the high and lofty One,  
the One who dwells forever,  
whose name is holy:  
I dwell in a high and holy place,  
but also with the contrite and lowly of spirit,  
to revive the spirit of the lowly,  
to revive the heart of the crushed.

For I will not accuse forever,  
nor always be angry;  
for without me their spirit fails,  
the life breath that I have given.

Because of their wicked avarice I grew angry;  
I struck them,  
hiding myself from them in wrath.

But they turned back,  
following the way of their own heart.

I saw their ways, but I will heal them.  
I will lead them and restore full comfort to them  
and to those who mourn for them,  
creating words of comfort.

Peace! Peace to those who are far and near,  
says the Lord;  
and I will heal them.

**The word of the Lord**