

## **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

Comfort, give comfort to my people,  
says your God.

Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and proclaim to her  
that her service is at an end,  
her guilt is expiated;  
indeed, she has received from the hand of the LORD  
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

In the desert prepare the way of the LORD!  
Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!  
Every valley shall be filled in,  
every mountain and hill shall be made low;  
the rugged land shall be made a plain,  
the rough country, a broad valley.  
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all people shall see it together;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

Go up on to a high mountain,  
Zion, herald of glad tidings;  
cry out at the top of your voice,  
Jerusalem, herald of good news!  
Fear not to cry out  
and say to the cities of Judah:  
Here is your God!

Here comes with power  
the Lord GOD,  
who rules by his strong arm;  
here is his reward with him,  
his recompense before him.

Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;  
in his arms he gathers the lambs,  
carrying them in his bosom,  
and leading the ewes with care.

The Word of the Lord.

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## **A reading from the second letter of St Peter**

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Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,  
that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years  
and a thousand years like one day.

The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard "delay,"  
but he is patient with you,  
not wishing that any should perish  
but that all should come to repentance.  
But the day of the Lord will come like a thief,  
and then the heavens will pass away with a mighty roar  
and the elements will be dissolved by fire,  
and the earth and everything done on it will be found out.

Since everything is to be dissolved in this way,  
what sort of persons ought you to be,  
conducting yourselves in holiness and devotion,  
waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God,  
because of which the heavens will be dissolved in flames  
and the elements melted by fire.

But according to his promise  
we await new heavens and a new earth  
in which righteousness dwells.

Therefore, beloved, since you await these things,  
be eager to be found without spot or blemish before him, at peace.

The Word of the Lord.