

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Listen to me, O coastlands, pay attention, you peoples from far away! The Lord called me before I was born, while I was in my mother's womb he named me. 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 cause is with the Lord, and my reward with my God." And now the Lord says, who formed me in 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 sight 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 restore the survivors of Israel; I will give you as a light to 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 nations, the slave of rulers, "Kings shall see and stand up, princes, and they shall prostrate themselves, because of the Lord, who is faithful, the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Today, we will read Psalm Psalm 40:1-12. We will read it responsively, breaking at the asterisk. It can be found on the screens behind me, on page 640 in the Book of Common Prayer, or in the bulletin.

1 I waited patiently upon the Lord; *

he stooped to me and heard my cry.

2 He lifted me out of the desolate pit, out of the mire and clay; *

he set my feet upon a high cliff and made my footing sure.

3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; *

many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord.

4 Happy are they who trust in the Lord! *

they do not resort to evil spirits or turn to false gods.

**5 Great things are they that you have done, O Lord my God!
how great your wonders and your plans for us! ***

there is none who can be compared with you.

6 Oh, that I could make them known and tell them! *

but they are more than I can count.

7 In sacrifice and offering you take no pleasure *

(you have given me ears to hear you);

8 Burnt-offering and sin-offering you have not required, *

and so I said, "Behold, I come.

9 In the roll of the book it is written concerning me: *

'I love to do your will, O my God; your law is deep in my heart.'"

10 I proclaimed righteousness in the great congregation; *

behold, I did not restrain my lips; and that, O Lord, you know.

11 Your righteousness have I not hidden in my heart;

I have spoken of your faithfulness and your deliverance; *

I have not concealed your love and faithfulness from the great congregation.

12 You are the Lord; do not withhold your compassion from me;

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let your love and your faithfulness keep me safe for ever.

A reading from Paul's first Letter to the Corinthians

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes, To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**