

Temple Emanu-El

Parashat Vaetchanan

פְּרַשַׁת וַאֲתַחֲנֶן

Shabbat Nachamu

שַׁבַּת נַחֲמוּ

August 9, 2025 / 15 Av 5785

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Annual Torah Reading: | Deuteronomy | 3:23 – 7:11 | page 1005 |
| Triennial Torah Reading: | Deuteronomy | 5:1 – 7:11 | page 1015 |
| Haftarah Reading: | Isaiah | 40:1 -40:26 | page 1033 |

Weekly Torah Reading – *Vaetchanan*

Pshat – The Story at a Glance

1. Moses prays to God that he be allowed entry into the Promised Land with the people, but his petition is denied.
2. The cities of refuge allow for unintentional manslaughter a place to live so that wrongful “honor killings” don’t defile the land’s sanctity.
3. The Ten Commandments are shared. This version is *nearly* identical to the version found in Exodus 20, with one key difference in the verbiage of “observing” Shabbat instead of “remembering” Shabbat.
4. We read the Shema in context, which later becomes the quintessential Jewish prayer affirming the singularity of God.
5. The Israelites are instructed to remember God when they benefit from good things beyond their control, such as flourishing cities they did not build and olive groves they did not plant.

Drash – A Closer Look at this Week’s Parsha

“I [Moses] pleaded with the Lord...let me, I pray, cross over and see the good land on the other side of the Jordan, that good hill country, and the Lebanon” (Deuteronomy 4:23-25)

This week’s parsha opens with Moses’s request to God to let him enter the land of Israel before he dies, which is of course, quickly rejected. The 13th century French commentator, Chizkuni explains that it is unlikely Moses was so determined to enter Israel just because of his desire to enjoy the fruits of the land. Instead, commentators explain that Moses wanted to enter Israel because he so wanted to fulfill the mitzvot that could only be performed in Israel. Given the strength of Moses’s character, that was the only logical explanation.

Of note in this week’s liturgy:

- As we read the Ten Commandments this Shabbat, there are several ways to indicate the specialness of these verses: Many have a custom of standing as this section is read, and we will hear a special “elevated” trop that distinguishes the Ten Commandments from the rest of today’s Torah reading.
- This past week, we commemorated Tisha B’av, a day of fasting and mourning for the destruction of the First and Second Temples in Jerusalem. Today, the first Shabbat after Tisha B’av, is referred to as Shabbat *Nahamu* (meaning comfort), and is the first of seven Shabbatot of consolation leading up to Rosh HaShana. The name Shabbat Nahamu is derived from the first two words of this week’s Haftarah: “*Nahamu, Nahamu*—Comfort, oh comfort”, which is set up by design due to the comfort needed in a broken world following the Temple’s destruction.

Shabbat Shalom שַׁבַּת שְׁלוֹם

Weekly Service Times:

Friday Evening 6:15pm, Shabbat Morning 9am

Sunday Morning 9am, Monday—Thursday Evenings 7pm,

Wednesday Morning 7:30am

Yasher Koach to Rabbi Gabe Cohen and Rabbi Jeremy Ruberg for leading services. Michael Goodman and Jake Becker for reading Torah and Dr. Rica Rabinowitz for chanting the Haftarah.

Yasher Koach to Josh Tal for delivering this week's sermon and to Judah Skoff for leading musaf.

Thank You

Thank you to Dr. Rica Rabinowitz and Steve Leeman for serving as our Gabbaim.

Sponsors

Thank you to Sisterhood for sponsoring the bima food baskets and their donation to the Closter Food Panty.

Thank you to Karen & Harry Banschick for sponsoring kiddush in memory of their father's Max Banschick z"l & Louis Lesorgen z"l.

Announcements

Just One More Thing. JOMT is designed to address and combat food insufficiency right here in our community. We will be partnering with the Closter Food Pantry, targeting items month by month that are most in need. We are asking our congregation to purchase "just one more thing" when shopping at the supermarket. *Drop-off location: Temple Office.* **August Item: Coffee**

High Holy Days Ticket Requests | Now due! Tickets are not sent automatically. You must complete the High Holy Days 5786 form in order to receive tickets. In order to process your ticket request, full payment and/or financial arrangements* for Membership Dues, additional High Holy Days tickets and Religious School Registration must be received by August 8th. Submit your ticket request today, [CLICK HERE](#).

Men's Club Presents: Fantasy Football League 2025 Tuesday, September 2nd at 8:30 PM. Whether you're a seasoned pro or just getting started, our Fantasy Football League is open to all: adults, college students, and kids. Draft will be held virtually on September 2nd. Enjoy a season of excitement, strategy, and friendly competition. Kids League, no cost | Adults League \$180 (all in, no transaction fees). Register [HERE](#) by August 29th!

Welcome Back BBQ Friday, September 5th at 5:00 PM. Join us for our Welcome Back BBQ! Tickets Include: Food & Fun for the whole family, interactions with clergy, and activities for all ages. Don't miss the opportunity to connect with new members of the congregation and to re-connect with old friends! \$18 per adult | \$12 per child [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP!

Deal Me In: A Sisterhood Game Series Friday, September 12th at 10:00 AM. Whether you're a seasoned player or brand new to the table, this monthly Sisterhood gathering is your chance to connect, unwind, and enjoy a morning (or evening!) of games and good company. Choose your game: Mah Jongg or Canasta – and join fellow women from our community for light snacks, laughter, and low-pressure fun. Bring a foursome, a friend, or just yourself and we'll match you up! Open to all women in our community, all ages and experience levels welcome! RSVP required. [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP!

Birthday Party for the World Wednesday, September 24th, immediately following Kehillah Service. TE Families: Join us on Rosh Hashanah Day 2 after our Kehillah Service at 12:00 PM for TE's Birthday Party for the World on Temple Emanu-El's campus. The party will feature Shofar blowing, activities for all ages, performances by Matty Roxx, and sweet treats. For ALL ages! [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP!

Please visit the Temple Emanu-El website for more information and to join us virtually: <https://tecloster.org>