

A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For darkness shall cover the earth
and thick darkness the peoples,
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.

Nations shall come to your light
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together; they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried in their nurses' arms.

Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you;
the wealth of the nations shall come to you...

Your gates shall always be open;
day and night they shall not be shut,
so that nations shall bring you their wealth,
with their kings led in procession.

For the nation and kingdom
that will not serve you shall perish;
those nations shall be utterly laid waste...

...I will appoint Peace as your overseer
and Righteousness as your taskmaster.

Violence shall no more be heard in your land,
devastation or destruction within your borders;
you shall call your walls Salvation
and your gates Praise.

The sun shall no longer be
your light by day,
nor for brightness shall the moon

give light to you by night,
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your God will be your glory.

Your sun shall no more go down
or your moon withdraw itself,
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,
and your days of mourning shall be ended.

Your people shall all be righteous;
they shall possess the land forever.
They are the shoot that I planted, the work of my hands,
so that I might be glorified.

The least of them shall become a clan
and the smallest one a mighty nation;
I am the Lord;
in its time I will accomplish it quickly.

[Isaiah 1-5, 11-12, 18-22]