

## A READING FROM THE PROPHETIC BOOK OF ISAIAH

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and reverence for the Lord. His delight shall be in the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor, and decide with equity the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall destroy the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

On that day the Lord will extend his hand **yet a second time** to recover the remnant that is left of his people.... He will raise a signal for the nations and will assemble the outcasts...and gather the dispersed...from the four corners of the earth.