

1. The Reading is from Genesis (1:1-13)

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light, and there was light. And God saw the light that it was good, and God divided between the light and the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the darkness He called Night, and there was evening and there was morning, the first day. And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the water, and let it be a division between water and water, and it was so. And God made the firmament, and God divided between the water which was under the firmament and the water which was above the firmament. And God called the firmament Heaven, and God saw that it was good, and there was evening and there was morning, the second day. And God said, Let the water which is under the heaven be collected into one place, and let the dry land appear, and it was so. And the water which was under the heaven was collected into its places, and the dry land appeared. And God called the dry land Earth, and the gatherings of the waters he called Seas, and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the earth bring forth the herb of grass bearing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and the fruit-tree bearing fruit whose seed is in it, according to its kind on the earth, and it was so. And the earth brought forth the herb of grass bearing seed according to its kind and according to its likeness, and the fruit tree bearing fruit whose seed is in it, according to its kind on the earth, and God saw that it was good. And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

2. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (60:1-16)

Arise, shine, O Jerusalem, for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. Behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and there shall be gross darkness on the nations: but the Lord shall appear upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. And kings shall walk in thy light, and nations in thy brightness. Lift up thine eyes round about, and behold thy children gathered: all thy sons have come from far, and thy daughters shall be borne on men's shoulders. Then shalt thou see, and fear, and be amazed in thine heart; for the wealth of the sea shall come round to thee, and of nations and peoples; and herds of camels shall come to thee, and the camels of Madian and Gaepha shall cover thee: all from Saba shall come bearing gold, and shall bring frankincense, and they shall publish the salvation of the Lord. And all the flocks of Kedar shall be gathered, and the rams of Nabaeoth shall come; and acceptable sacrifices shall be offered on my altar, and my house of prayer shall be glorified. Who are these that fly as clouds, and as doves with young ones to me? The isles have waited for me, and the ships of Tarshish among the first, to bring thy children from afar, and their silver and their gold with them, and that for the sake of the holy name of the Lord, and because the Holy One of Israel is glorified. And strangers shall build thy walls, and their kings shall wait upon thee: for by reason of My wrath I smote thee, and by reason of mercy I loved thee. And thy gates shall be opened continually; they shall not be shut day nor night; to bring in to thee the power of the Gentiles, and their kings as captives. For the nations and the kings which will not serve thee shall perish; and those nations shall be made utterly desolate. And the glory of Lebanon shall come to thee, with the cypress, and pine, and cedar together, to glorify My holy place. And the sons of them that afflicted thee, and of them that provoked thee, shall come to thee in fear; and thou shalt be called Sion, the city of the Holy One of Israel. Because thou has become desolate and hated, and there was no helper, therefore I will make thee a perpetual gladness, a joy of many generations. And thou shalt suck the milk of the Gentiles, and shalt eat the wealth of kings: and thou shalt know that I the Lord am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the God of Israel.

3. The Reading is from Exodus (12:1-11)

The Lord spake unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Ægypt, saying, This month shall be to you the beginning of months: it is the first to you among the months of the year. Speak to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, On the tenth of this month let them take each man a lamb according to the houses of their families, every man a lamb for his household. And if they be few in a household, so that there are not enough for the lamb, he shall take with himself his neighbour that liveth near to him, – as to the number of souls, every one according to that which sufficeth him shall make a reckoning for the lamb. It shall be to you a lamb unblemished, a male of a year old: ye shall take it of the lambs and the kids. And it shall be kept by you till the fourteenth of this month, and all the multitude of the congregation of the children of Israel shall kill it toward evening. And they shall take of the blood, and shall put it on the two door-posts, and on the lintel, in the houses in whichsoever they shall eat them. And they shall eat the flesh in this night roast with fire, and they shall eat unleavened bread with bitter herbs. Ye shall not eat of it raw nor sodden in water, but only roast with fire, the head with the feet and the appurtenances. Nothing shall be left of it till the morning, and a bone of it ye shall not break; but that which is left of it till the morning ye shall burn with fire. And thus shall ye eat it: your loins girded, and your sandals on your feet, and your staves in your hands, and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Pascha of the Lord.

4. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jonah(1:1-2:3)

The word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amathi, saying, Rise, and go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it; for the cry of its wickedness is come up to Me. But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. And he went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish: and he paid his fare, and went up into it, to sail with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. And the Lord raised up a wind on the sea; and there was a great storm on the sea, and the ship was in danger of being broken. And the sailors were alarmed, and cried every one to his god, and cast out the wares that were in the ship into the sea, that it might be lightened of them. But Jonah was gone down into the hold of the ship, and was asleep, and snored. And the shipmaster came to him, and said to him, Why snoorest thou? arise, and call upon thy God, that God may save us, and we perish not. And each man said to his neighbour, Come, let us cast lots, and find out for whose sake this mischief is upon us. So they cast lots, and the lot fell upon Jonah. And they said to him, Tell us what is thine occupation, and whence comest thou, and of what country and what people art thou? And he said to them, I am a servant of the Lord; and I worship the Lord God of heaven, Who made the sea, and the dry land. Then the men feared exceedingly, and said to him, What is this that thou hast done? for the men knew that he was fleeing from the face of the Lord, because he had told them. And they said to him, What shall we do to thee, that the sea may be calm to us? for the sea rose, and lifted its wave exceedingly. And Jonah said to them, Take me up, and cast me into the sea, and the sea shall be calm to you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you. And the men tried hard to return to the land, and were not able: for the sea rose and grew more and more tempestuous against them. And they cried to the Lord, and said, Forbid it, Lord: let us not perish for the sake of this man's life, and bring not righteous blood upon us: for thou, Lord, hast done as thou wouldest. So they took Jonah, and cast him out into the sea: and the sea ceased from its raging. And the men feared the Lord very greatly, and offered a sacrifice to the Lord, and vowed vows. Now the Lord had commanded a great whale to swallow up Jonah: and Jonah was in the belly of the whale three days and three nights. And Jonah prayed to the Lord his God out of the belly of the whale, and said:

The Prayer (2:3-10)

I cried in my affliction to the Lord my God, and He hearkened to me, even to my cry out of the belly of hell: Thou heardest my voice. Thou didst cast me into the depths of the heart of the sea, and the floods compassed me: all Thy billows and Thy waves have passed upon me. And I said, I am cast out of Thy presence: shall I indeed look again toward Thy holy temple? Water was poured around me to the soul: the lowest deep compassed me, my head went down to the clefts of the mountains; I went down into the earth, whose bars are the everlasting barriers: yet, O Lord my God, let my ruined life be restored. When my soul was failing me, I remembered the Lord; and may my prayer come to Thee into Thy holy temple. They that observe vanities and lies have forsaken their own mercy. But I will sacrifice to Thee with the voice of praise and thanksgiving: all that I have vowed I will pay to Thee, the Lord of my salvation.

(2:11-4:11)

And the whale was commanded by the Lord, and it cast up Jonah on the dry land. And the word of the Lord came to Jonah the second time, saying, Rise, go to Nineveh, the great city, and preach in it according to the former preaching of which I spake to thee. And Jonah arose, and went to Nineveh, as the Lord had spoken. Now Nineveh was an exceeding great city, of about three days' journey. And Jonah began to enter into the city about a day's journey, and he proclaimed, and said, Yet three days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown. And the men of Nineveh believed God, and proclaimed a fast, and put on sackcloths, from the greatest of them to the least of them. And the word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from off his throne, and took off his raiment from him, and put on sackcloth, and sat on ashes. And proclamation was made, and it was commanded in Nineveh by the king and by his great men, saying, Let not men, or cattle, or oxen, or sheep, taste any thing, nor feed, nor drink water. So men and cattle were clothed with sackcloths, and cried earnestly to God; and they turned every one from their evil way, and from the iniquity that was in their hands, saying, Who knoweth if God will repent, and turn from His fierce anger, and so we shall not perish? And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil ways; and God repented of the evil which He had said He would do to them; and He did it not. But Jonah was very deeply grieved, and he was confounded. And he prayed to the Lord, and said, O Lord, were not these my words when I was yet in my land? therefore I made haste to flee to Tarshish; because I knew that Thou are merciful and compassionate, long-suffering, and abundant in kindness, and repentest of evil. And now, Lord God, take my life from me; for it is better for me to die than to live. And the Lord said to Jonah, Art thou very much grieved? And Jonah went out

from the city, and sat over against the city; and he made for himself there a booth, and he sat under it, until he should perceive what would become of the city. And the Lord God commanded a gourd, and it came up over the head of Jonah, to be a shadow over his head, to shade him from his calamities: and Jonah rejoiced with great joy for the gourd. And God commanded a worm the next morning, and it smote the gourd, and it withered away. And it came to pass at the rising of the sun, that God commanded a burning east wind; and the sun smote on the head of Jonah, and he fainted, and despaired of his life, and said, It is better for me to die than to live. And God said to Jonah, Art thou very much grieved for the gourd? And he said, I am very much grieved, even to death. And the Lord said, Thou hadst pity on the gourd, for which thou has not suffered, neither didst thou rear it; which came up before night, and perished before another night: and shall not I spare Nineveh, the great city, in which dwell more than twelve myriads of human beings, who do not know their right hand or their left hand; and also much cattle?

5. The Reading is from Joshua, Son of Navi (5:10-15)

The children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Pascha on the fourteenth day of the month at evening, to the westward of Jericho in the plain. And they ate of the grain of the earth unleavened and new corn. In this day the manna failed, after they had eaten of the corn of the land, and the children of Israel no longer had manna: and they took the fruits of the land of the Phoenicians in that year. And it came to pass when Joshua was in Jericho, that he looked up with his eyes and saw a man standing before him, and there was a drawn sword in his hand; and Joshua drew near and said to him, Art thou for us or on the side of our enemies? And he said to him, I am now come, the chief captain of the host of the Lord. And Joshua fell on his face upon the earth, and said to him, Lord, what commandest thou thy servant? And the captain of the Lord's host said to Joshua, Loose thy shoe off thy feet, for the place whereon thou now standest is holy. And Joshua did so.

6. The Reading is from Exodus (13:20-15:19)

The sons of Israel took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Othom by the wilderness. And God led them, in the day by a pillar of cloud, to shew them the way, and in the night by a pillar of fire. And the pillar of cloud failed not by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, before all the people. And the Lord spake to Moses, saying, Speak to the children of Israel, and let them turn and encamp before the village, between Magdol and the sea, opposite Beel-sepphon: before them shalt thou encamp by the sea. And Pharaoh will say to his people, As for these children of Israel, they are wandering in the land, for the wilderness has shut them in. And I will harden the heart of Pharaoh, and he shall pursue after them; and I will be glorified in Pharaoh, and in all his host, and all the Ægyptians shall know that I am the Lord. And they did so. And it was reported to the king of the Ægyptians that the people had fled: and the heart of Pharaoh was turned, and that of his servants against the people; and they said, What is this that we have done, to let the children of Israel go, so that they should not serve us? So Pharaoh yoked his chariots, and led off all his people with himself: having also taken six hundred chosen chariots, and all the cavalry of the Ægyptians, and rulers over all. And the Lord hardened the heart of Pharaoh king of Ægypt, and of his servants, and he pursued after the children of Israel; and the children of Israel went forth with a high hand. And the Ægyptians pursued after them, and found them encamped by the sea; and all the cavalry and the chariots of Pharaoh, and the horsemen, and his host were before the village, over against Beel-sepphon. And Pharaoh approached, and the children of Israel having looked up, beheld, and the Ægyptians encamped behind them: and they were very greatly terrified, and the children of Israel cried to the Lord; and said to Moses, Because there were no graves in the land of Ægypt, hast thou brought us forth to slay us in the wilderness? What is this that thou hast done to us, having brought us out of Ægypt? Is not this the word which we spake to thee in Ægypt, saying, Let us alone that we may serve the Ægyptians? for it is better for us to serve the Ægyptians than to die in this wilderness. And Moses said to the people, Be of good courage: stand and see the salvation which is from the Lord, which he will work for us this day; for as ye have seen the Ægyptians to-day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. And the Lord said to Moses, Why criest thou to Me? speak to the children of Israel, and let them proceed. And do thou lift up thy rod, and stretch forth thy hand over the sea, and divide it, and let the children of Israel enter into the midst of the sea on the dry land. And lo! I will harden the heart of Pharaoh and of all the Ægyptians, and they shall go in after them; and I will be glorified upon Pharaoh, and on all his host, and on his chariots and his horses. And all the Ægyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I am glorified upon Pharaoh and upon his chariots and his horses. And the angel of God

that went before the camp of the children of Israel removed and went behind, and the pillar of the cloud also removed from before them and stood behind them. And it went between the camp of the Ægyptians and the camp of Israel, and stood; and there was darkness and blackness; and the night passed, and they came not near to one another during the whole night. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the Lord carried back the sea with a strong south wind all the night, and made the sea dry, and the water was divided. And the children of Israel went into the midst of the sea on the dry land, and the water of it was a wall on the right hand and a wall on the left. And the Ægyptians pursued them and went in after them, and every horse of Pharaoh, and his chariots, and his horsemen, into the midst of the sea. And it came to pass in the morning watch that the Lord looked forth on the camp of the Ægyptians through the pillar of fire and cloud, and troubled the camp of the Ægyptians, and bound the axle-trees of their chariots, and caused them to go with difficulty; and the Ægyptians said, Let us flee from the face of Israel, for the Lord fights for them against the Ægyptians. And the Lord said to Moses, Stretch forth thine hand over the sea, and let the water be turned back to its place, and let it cover the Ægyptians coming both upon the chariots and the riders. And Moses stretched forth his hand over the sea, and the water returned to its place toward day; and the Ægyptians fled from the water, and the Lord shook off the Ægyptians in the midst of the sea. And the water returned and covered the chariots and the riders, and all the forces of Pharaoh, who entered after them into the sea: and there was not left of them even one. But the children of Israel went along dry land in the midst of the sea, and the water was to them a wall on the right hand, and a wall on the left. So the Lord delivered Israel in that day from the hand of the Ægyptians, and Israel saw the Ægyptians dead by the shore of the sea. And Israel saw the mighty hand, the things which the Lord did to the Ægyptians; and the people feared the Lord, and they believed God and Moses his servant. Then sang Moses and the sons of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spake, saying,

The Reader saith: Let us sing unto the Lord:
And they singeth in the 5th tone: For He is very greatly glorified.

And the Reader precedeth the choir with these:

Horse and rider He hath thrown into the sea. Let us sing unto the Lord:

And the two choirs singeth: For He is very greatly glorified.

He was to me a helper and protector for salvation: Let us sing unto the Lord:

This is my God and I will glorify Him; the God of my father, and I will exalt Him.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

The Lord bringing wars to nought, the Lord is His name. He hath cast the chariots of Pharaoh
and his host into the sea: Let us sing unto the Lord:

The chosen mounted captains: they were swallowed up in the Red Sea.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

He covered them with the sea: they sank to the depth like a stone.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Thy right hand, O Lord, has been glorified in strength;

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Thy right hand, O Lord, hath broken the enemies. And in the abundance of Thy glory Thou
hast broken the adversaries to pieces:

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Thou sentest forth Thy wrath, it devoured them as stubble. And by the breath of Thine anger
the water parted asunder;

Let us sing unto the Lord:

The waters stood upright as a wall, the waves stood upright in the midst of the sea.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoils; I will satisfy my soul, I
will destroy with my sword, my hand shall have dominion.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Thou sentest forth Thy wind, the sea covered them; they sank as lead in the mighty water.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Who is like unto Thee among the gods, O Lord? who is like unto Thee? glorified in holiness,
marvellous in glories, doing wonders?

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Thou stretchedst forth Thy right hand, the earth swallowed them up. Thou hast guided in Thy
righteousness this Thy people whom Thou hast redeemed,

Let us sing unto the Lord:

By Thy strength Thou hast called them into Thy holy resting-place. The nations heard and were angry, pangs have seized on the dwellers among the Phylistines.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Then the princes of Edom, and the chiefs of the Moabites hasted; trembling took hold upon them, all the inhabitants of Canaan melted away.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Let trembling and fear fall upon them; by the greatness of Thine arm, let them become as stone;

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Till Thy people pass over, O Lord, till this Thy people pass over, whom thou hast purchased.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Bring them in and plant them in the mountain of their inheritance, in Thy prepared habitation, which Thou, O Lord, hast prepared; the sanctuary, O Lord, which Thine hands have made ready.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

The Lord reigneth unto the ages of ages and for ever. For the horse of Pharaoh went in with the chariots and horsemen into the sea, and the Lord brought upon them the water of the sea;

Let us sing unto the Lord:

But the sons of Israel walked through dry land in the midst of the sea.

Let us sing unto the Lord:

Glory: Let us sing unto the Lord:

Both now: Let us sing unto the Lord:

And the Reader repeateth thereafter: For He hath triumphed gloriously.

7. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Zephaniah (3:8-15)

Thus saith the Lord, wait upon me, until the day when I rise up for a witness: because My judgement shall be on the gatherings of the nations, to draw to Me kings, to pour out upon them all My fierce anger: for the whole earth shall be consumed with the fire of My jealousy. For then will I turn to the peoples a tongue for her generation, that all may call on the name of the Lord, to serve Him under one yoke. From the boundaries of the rivers of Ethiopia will I receive My dispersed ones; they shall offer sacrifices to Me. In that day thou shalt not be ashamed of all thy practices, wherein thou hast transgressed against Me: for then will I take away from thee thy disdainful pride, and thou shalt no more magnify thyself upon My holy mountain. And I will leave in thee a meek and lowly people; and the remnant of Israel shall fear the name of the Lord, and shall do no iniquity, neither shall they speak vanity; neither shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouth: for they shall feed, and lie down, and there shall be none to terrify them. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Sion; preach, O daughter of Jerusalem; rejoice and delight thyself with all thine heart, O daughter of Jerusalem. The Lord hath taken away thine iniquities, He hath ransomed thee from the hand of thine enemies: the Lord, shall be King in the midst of thee: and thou shalt see evil no more.

8. The Reading is from the Third Book of Kingdoms (17:8-23)

The word of the Lord came unto Elijah, saying, Arise, and go to Sarepta of Sidon: behold, I have there commanded a widow-woman to maintain thee. And he arose and went to Sarepta, and came to the gate of the city: and, behold, a widow-woman was there gathering sticks; and Elijah cried after her, and said to her, Fetch me, I pray thee, a little water in a vessel, that I may drink. And she went to fetch it; and Elijah cried after her, and said, Bring me, I pray thee, a morsel of the bread that is in thy hand. And the woman said, As the Lord thy God lives, I have not a cake, but only a handful of meal in the pitcher, and a little oil in a cruse, and, behold, I am going to gather two sticks, and I shall go in and dress it for myself and my children, and we shall eat it and die. And Elijah said to her, Be of good courage, go in and do according to thy word: but make me thereof a little cake, and thou shalt bring it out to me first, and thou shalt make some for thyself and thy children last. For thus saith the Lord, The pitcher of meal shall not fail, and the cruse of oil shall not diminish, until the day that the Lord giveth rain upon the earth. And the woman went and did so, and did eat, she, and he, and her children. And the pitcher of meal failed not, and the cruse of oil was not diminished, according to the word of the Lord which He spake by the hand of Elijah. And it came to pass afterward, that the son of the woman the mistress of the house was sick; and his sickness was very severe, until there was no breath left in him. And she said to Elijah, What have I to do with thee, O man of God? hast thou come in to me to bring my sins to remembrance, and to slay my son? And Elijah said to the woman, Give me thy son. And he took him out of her bosom, and took him up to the chamber in which he himself lodged, and laid him on the bed. And Elijah cried aloud, and said, Alas, O Lord, the witness of the widow with whom I sojourn, thou hast wrought evil for her in slaying her son. And he breathed on the child thrice, and called on the Lord, and said, O Lord my God, let, I pray thee, the soul of this child return to him. And it was so, and the child cried out, and he brought him down from the upper chamber into the house, and gave him to his mother; and Elijah said, See, thy son liveth. And the woman said to Elijah, Behold, I know that thou art a man of God, and the word of the Lord in thy mouth is true.

9. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (61:10-62:5)

Let my soul rejoice in the Lord; for He hath clothed me with the robe of salvation, and the garment of joy: He hath put a mitre on me as on a bridegroom, and adorned me with ornaments as a bride. And as the earth putting forth her flowers, and as a garden its seed; so shall the Lord, even the Lord, cause righteousness to spring forth, and exultation before all nations. For Sion's sake I will not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her righteousness go forth as light, and My salvation burn as a torch. And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and kings thy glory: and one shall call thee by a new name, which the Lord shall name. And thou shalt be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of thy God. And thou shalt no more be called Forsaken; and thy land shall no more be called Desert: for thou shalt be called My Pleasure, and thy land Inhabited: for the Lord hath taken pleasure in thee, and thy land shall be inhabited. And as a young man liveth with a virgin, so shall thy sons dwell in thee: and it shall come to pass that as a bridegroom will rejoice over a bride, so will the Lord rejoice over thee.

10. The Reading is from Genesis (22:1-18)

It came to pass after these things that God tempted Abraham, and said to him, Abraham, Abraham; and he said, Lo! I am here. And He said, Take thy son, the beloved one, whom thou hast loved – Isaac, and go into the high land, and offer him there for a wholeburnt offering on one of the mountains which I will tell thee of. And Abraham rose up in the morning and saddled his ass, and he took with him two servants, and Isaac his son, and having split wood for a wholeburnt offering, he arose and departed, and came to the place of which God spake to him, on the third day; and Abraham having lifted up his eyes, saw the place afar off. And Abraham said to his servants, Sit ye here with the ass, and I and the lad will proceed thus far, and having worshipped we will return to you. And Abraham took the wood of the wholeburnt offering, and laid it on Isaac his son, and he took into his hands both the fire and the knife, and the two went together. And Isaac said to Abraham his father, Father. And he said, What is it, son? And he said, Behold the fire and the wood, where is the sheep for a wholeburnt offering? And Abraham said, God will provide himself a sheep for a wholeburnt offering, my son. And both having gone together, came to the place which God spake of to him; and there Abraham built the altar, and laid the wood on it, and having bound the feet of Isaac his son together, he laid him on the altar upon the wood. And Abraham stretched forth his hand to take the knife to slay his son. And an angel of the Lord called him out of Heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham. And he said, Behold, I am here. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the child, neither do anything to him, for now I know that thou fearest God, and for my sake thou hast not spared thy beloved son. And Abraham lifted up his eyes and beheld, and lo! a ram caught by his horns in a plant of Sabec; and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a wholeburnt offering in the place of Isaac his son. And Abraham called the name of that place, The Lord hath seen; that they might say to-day, In the mount the Lord was seen. And an angel of the Lord called Abraham the second time out of heaven, saying, I have sworn by myself, saith the Lord, because thou hast done this thing, and on my account hast not spared thy beloved son, surely blessing I will bless thee, and multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand which is by the shore of the sea, and thy seed shall inherit the cities of their enemies. And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because thou hast hearkened to My voice.

11. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (61:1-10)

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me; He hath sent me to preach glad tidings to the poor, to heal the broken in heart, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind; to declare the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of recompence; to comfort all that mourn; that there should be given to them that mourn in Sion glory instead of ashes, the oil of joy to the mourners, the garment of glory for the spirit of heaviness: and they shall be called generations of righteousness, the planting of the Lord for glory. And they shall build the old waste places, they shall raise up those that were before made desolate, and shall renew the desert cities, even those that had been desolate for many generations. And strangers shall come and feed thy flocks, and aliens shall be thy ploughmen and vine-dressers. But ye shall be called priests of the Lord, the ministers of God: ye shall eat the strength of nations, and shall be admired because of their wealth. Thus shall they inherit the land a second time, and everlasting joy shall be upon their head. For I am the Lord Who love righteousness, and hate robberies of injustice; and I will give their labour to the just, and will make an everlasting covenant with them. And their seed shall be known among the Gentiles, and their offspring in the midst of peoples: every one that seeth them shall take notice of them, that they are a seed blessed of God; and they shall greatly rejoice in the Lord.

12. The Reading is from the Fourth Book of Kingdoms (4:8-37)

A day came, when Elisha passed over to Shuman, and there was a great lady there, and she constrained him to eat bread: and it came to pass as often as he went into the city, that he turned aside to eat there. And the woman said to her husband, See now, I know that this is a holy man of God who doth come over continually to us. Let us now make for him an upper chamber, a small place; and let us put there for him a bed, and a table, and a stool, and a candlestick: and it shall come to pass that when he cometh in to us, he shall turn in thither. And a day came, and he went in thither, and turned aside into the upper chamber, and lay there. And he said to Gehazi his servant, Call me this Shumanite. And he called her, and she stood before him. And he said to him, Say now to her, Behold, thou hast taken all this trouble for us; what should I do for thee? Hast thou any request to make to the king, or to the captain of the host? And she said, I dwell in the midst of my people. And he said to Gehazi, What must we do for her? and Gehazi his servant said, Indeed she has no son, and her husband is old. And he called her, and she stood by the door. And Elisha said to her, At this time next year, as the season is, thou shalt be alive, and embrace a son. And she said, Nay, my lord, do not lie to thy servant. And the woman conceived, and bare a son at the very time, as the season was, being alive, as Elisha said to her. And the child grew: and it came to pass when he went out to his father to the reapers, that he said to his father, My head, my head. And his father said to a servant, carry him to his mother. And he carried him to his mother, and he lay upon her knees till noon, and died. And she carried him up and laid him on the bed of the man of god; and she shut the door upon him, and went out. And she called her husband, and said, Send now for me one of the young men, and one of the asses, and I will ride quickly to the man of God, and return. And he said, Why art thou going to him to-day? It is neither new moon, nor the Sabbath. And she said, It is well. And she saddled the ass, and said to her servant, Be quick, proceed: spare not on my account to ride, unless I shall tell thee. Go, and thou shalt proceed, and come to the man of God to Mount Carmel. And she rode and came to the man of God to the mountain: and it came to pass when Elisha saw her coming, that he said to Gehazi his servant, See now, that Shumanite cometh. Now run to meet her, and thou shalt say, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? and she said, It is well. And she came to Elisha to the mountain, and laid hold of his feet; and Gehazi drew near to thrust her away. And Elisha said, Let her alone, for her soul is much grieved in her, and the Lord hath hidden it from me, and hath not told it me. And she said, Did I ask a son of my lord? For did I not say, Do not deal deceitfully with me? And Elisha said to Gehazi, Gird up thy loins, and take my staff in thy hand, and go: if thou meet any man, thou shalt not salute him, and if a man salute thee thou shalt not answer him: and thou shalt lay my staff on the

child's face. And the mother of the child said, As the Lord doth live and as thy soul doth live, I will not leave thee. And Elisha arose, and went after her. And Gehazi went on before her, and laid his staff on the child's face: but there was neither voice nor any hearing. So he returned to meet him, and told him, saying, The child is not awaked. And Elisha went into the house, and, behold, the dead child was laid upon his bed. And Elisha went into the house, and shut the door upon themselves, the two, and prayed to the Lord. And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands; and bowed himself upon him, and the flesh of the child grew warm. And he returned, and walked up and down in the house: and he went up, and bowed himself on the child seven times; and the child opened his eyes. And Elisha cried out to Gehazi, and said, Call this Shumanite. So he called her, and she came in to him: and Elisha said, Take thy son. And the woman went in, and fell at his feet, and did obeisance bowing to the ground; and she took her son, and went out.

13. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Isaiah (63:11-64:5)

Thus saith the Lord: where is He that put His Holy Spirit in them? Who led Moses with His right hand, the arm of His glory? He forced the water to separate from before Him, to make Himself an everlasting name. He led them through the deep, as a horse through the wilderness, and they fainted not, and as cattle through a plain: the Spirit came down from the Lord, and guided them: thus Thou leddest Thy people, to make Thyself a glorious name. Turn from Heaven, and look from Thy holy habitation and from Thy glory: where is Thy zeal and Thy strength? where is the abundance of Thy mercy and of Thy compassions, that Thou hast withholden Thyself from us? For Thou art our Father; for though Abraham knew us not, and Israel did not acknowledge us, yet do Thou, O Lord, our Father, deliver us: Thy name hath been upon us from the beginning. Why hast Thou caused us to err, O Lord, from Thy way? and hast hardened our hearts, that we should not fear Thee? Return for Thy servants' sake, for the sake of the tribes of Thine inheritance, that we may inherit a small part of Thy holy mountain. We are become as at the beginning, when Thou didst not rule over us, and Thy name was not called upon us. If Thou wouldest open the heaven, trembling will take hold upon the mountains from Thee, and they shall melt, as wax doth melt before the fire; and fire shall burn up the enemies, and Thy name shall be manifest among the adversaries: at Thy presence the nations shall be troubled, whenever Thou shalt work gloriously; trembling from Thee shall take hold upon the mountains. From of old we have not heard, neither have our eyes seen a God beside Thee, and Thy works which Thou wilt perform to them that wait for mercy. For these blessings shall happen to them that work righteousness, and they shall remember Thy ways.

14. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Jeremiah (31:31-34)

Thus saith the Lord: Behold, the days come when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day when I took hold of their hand to bring them out of the land of Ægypt; for they abode not in My covenant, and I disregarded them, saith the Lord. For this is My covenant which I will make with the house of Israel; after those days, saith the Lord, I will surely put My laws into their mind, and write them on their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to Me a people. And they shall not at all teach every one his fellow citizen, and every one his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them: for I will be merciful to their iniquities, and their sins I will remember no more.

15. The Reading is from the Prophecy of Daniel (3:1-88)

In the eightieth year, Nebuchadnezzar the king made an image of gold, whose height was threescore cubits, and the breadth thereof six cubits: he set it up in the plain of Dura, in the province of Babylon. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king sent to gather together the princes, the governors, and the captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, to come to the dedication of the image which Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Then the princes, the governors, and captains, the judges, the treasurers, the counsellors, the sheriffs, and all the rulers of the provinces, were gathered together unto the dedication of the image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up; and they stood before the image that Nebuchadnezzar had set up. Then an herald cried aloud, To you it is commanded, O people, nations, and languages, That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth shall the same hour be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. Therefore at that time, when all the people heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and all kinds of musick, all the people, the nations, and the languages, fell down and worshipped the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king had set up. Wherefore at that time certain Chaldæans came near, and accused the Jews. They spake and said to the king Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live for ever. Thou, O king, hast made a decree, that every man that shall hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, shall fall down and worship the golden image: And whoso falleth not down and worshippeth, that he should be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. There are Jewish men, whom thou hast placed over the works of the country of Babylon, Sedrach, Misach and Abdenago, who have not obeyed thy order, O king, and do not serve thy gods and who do not worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Then in rage and anger Nebuchadnezzar ordered Sedrach, Misach and Abdenago to be brought; and they were brought before the king; and Nebuchadnezzar answered and said to them: Is it true, Sedrach, Misach and Abdenago that you do not serve my gods, and do not worship the golden image that I have set up? Now therefore, when you hear the sound of trumpet, pipe, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and every kind of musick, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that I have set up; and if you do not worship, in that hour you will be cast into the burning furnace of fire. And who is the god that will rescue you from my hands? Sedrach, Misach and Abdenago answered king Nebuchadnezzar: We have no need to answer thee over this matter; for our God, Whom we serve, is in Heaven, able to rescue us from the burning furnace of fire and he will from thine hands, O king, because we will not serve thy gods and we will not worship the golden image

that thou had set up. Then Nebuchadnezzar was filled with rage, and his countenance was changed towards Sedrach, Misach and Abdenago, and he ordered the furnace to be heated sevenfold, so that it should burn to the uttermost; and he ordered his strongest men to fetter Sedrach, Misach and Abdenago and to cast them into the burning furnace of fire. Then the man bound then with their coats, caps, leggings and other clothing and they were cast into the middle of the burning fiery furnace, since the word of the king was pressing; and the furnace was heated exceedingly, sevenfold. And these three, Sedrach, Misach and Abdenago, fell bound into the midst of the burning furnace of fire, and they walked in the middle of the flame, praising god and blessing the Lord. And Azarias prayed thus; and opening his mouth in the middle of the fire he said: "Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers: and praised and glorified is Thy name unto the ages. For Thou art just in all that Thou hast done for us. And all Thy works are true, and Thy ways are right, and all Thy judgements are true. And judgements of truth Thou hast executed in all that Thou hast brought upon us. And upon Jerusalem the holy city of our fathers. Because in truth Thou hast brought all these things upon us, because of our sins. Because we have sinned and committed iniquity in departing from Thee, and we have sinned in all things, and we have not obeyed Thy commandments, nor kept them, nor have we done as Thou commanded us, that it might be well with us. And all that Thou hast done to us, and all that Thou hast brought upon us, Thou hast done with true judgement; and Thou handed us over into the hands of our lawless foes, hateful rebels, and to an unjust king, the most wicked in all the earth. And now we cannot open our mouth; we have become a shame and disgrace to Thy servants, and to those who honour Thee. Do not hand us over for ever, for Thy holy name's sake, and do not annul Thy covenant, and do not withdraw Thy mercy from us, for the sake of Abraham Thy beloved, and Isaac Thy servant, and Israel Thy holy one. To whom Thou said that Thou wouldst multiply their seed as the stars of heaven, and as the sand that is by the shore of the sea. Because, Master, we have become smaller than all the nations, and we are humbled in all the earth to-day because of our sins. And at this moment there is neither prince, nor prophet nor leader; neither holocaust, nor sacrifice, not offering, nor incense; no place to make an offering before Thee and to find mercy. Yet with a contrite heart and with a spirit of humility may we be accepted, as though with holocausts of rams and bulls and tens of thousands of fat lambs, so may our sacrifice be acceptable before Thee to-day, and may it be perfected behind Thee; because there is no shame for those who trust in Thee. And now we are following Thee with our whole heart, and we fear Thee, and seek Thy face; do not put us to shame. But do with us according to Thy fairness, and according to the multitude of Thy mercy. Deliver us according to Thy wondrous works,

and give glory to Thy name, O Lord. And let all who harm Thy servants be disgraced, and put to shame from all their power, and let their strength be smashed. And let them know that Thou Lord, alone are God, and glorious in the whole inhabited world." And the king's servants, who cast them in, did not cease stoking the furnace with naphtha, pitch, tow and brushwood. And the flame poured out above the furnace forty nine cubits; and it spread out and burnt up those of the Chaldæans it found around the furnace. But the Angel of the Lord came down into the furnace with Azarias and his companions, and shook the flame of the fire out of the furnace. And he made the midst of the furnace as though a moist wind were whistling through it; and the fire did not touch them at all, nor hurt them, nor trouble them. Then the Three as with one voice, hymned, blessed and glorified God in the furnace, saying: Blessed art Thou, O Lord, the God of our fathers: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. And blessed is Thy glorious, holy name: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. Blessed art Thou in the temple of Thy glory: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. Blessed art Thou who behold the deeps and sittest upon the Cherubim: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. Blessed art Thou on the glorious throne of Thy Kingdom: to be praised and exalted unto the ages. Blessed art Thou in the firmament of Heaven: to be praised and exalted unto the ages.

Then we stand and sing: Praise the Lord, and highly exalt Him, unto the ages.

Then the Reader chanteth the following hymn, while we, after each verse sing the refrain:

Praise the Lord as above.

Bless the Lord all you works of the Lord;

And we: Praise the Lord, and highly exalt Him, unto the ages.

Bless the Lord Angels of the Lord,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord you heavens;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord all you waters above the heavens,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord all you powers of the Lord;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord sun and moon,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord stars of heaven;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord every shower and dew,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord all the winds;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord fire and warmth,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord cold and heat;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord dews and snows,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord nights and days;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord light and dark,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord ice and cold;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord frosts and snows,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord lightnings and clouds;	Praise the Lord:

Let the earth bless the Lord;

Let it praise the Lord, and highly exalt Him, unto the ages.

Bless the Lord mountains and hills,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord all that grow in the earth;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord you springs,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord seas and rivers,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord whales and all that move in the waters;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord all you birds of the air,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord beasts and cattle;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord you sons of men.	Praise the Lord:
Let Israel bless the Lord;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord priests of the Lord,	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord servants of the Lord;	Praise the Lord:
Bless the Lord spirits and souls of the just,	Praise the Lord:

Bless the Lord you holy and humble of heart;

Bless the Lord Ananias, Azarias and Misael;

Bless the Lord Apostles, Prophets and Martyrs of the Lord;

Let us bless the Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

Singers: We praise the Lord and highly exalt Him unto the ages.

Reader: Both now and ever:

We praise, bless and worship the Lord, praising and highly exalting Him unto the ages.

Singers: We praise the Lord and highly exalt Him unto the ages.

Praise the Lord:

Praise the Lord:

Praise the Lord:

Praise the Lord: