

**A reading from the prophet Isaiah***Thus says the Lord:*

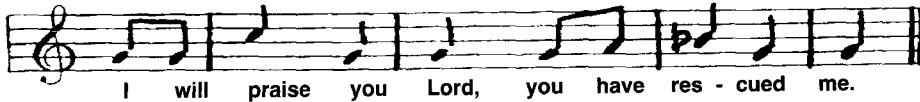
Now your creator will be your husband,  
 his name, the Lord of hosts:  
 your redeemer will be the Holy One of Israel,  
 he is called the God of the whole earth.  
 Yes, like a forsaken wife, distressed in spirit,  
 the Lord calls you back.  
 Does a man cast off the wife of his youth?  
 says your God.  
 I did forsake you for a brief moment,  
 but with great love will I take you back.  
 In excess of anger, for a moment  
 I hid my face from you.  
 But with everlasting love I have taken pity on you,  
 says the Lord, your redeemer.  
 I am now as I was in the days of Noah  
 when I swore that Noah's waters  
 should never flood the world again.

So now I swear concerning my anger with you  
 and the threats I made against you;  
 for the mountains may depart,  
 the hills be shaken,  
 but my love for you will never leave you  
 and my covenant of peace with you will never be  
 shaken,  
 says the Lord who takes pity on you.  
 Unhappy creature, storm-tossed, disconsolate,  
 see, I will set your stones on carbuncles  
 and your foundations on sapphires.  
 I will make rubies your battlements,  
 your gates crystal,  
 and your entire wall precious stones.  
 Your sons will be taught by the Lord.  
 The prosperity of your sons will be great.  
 You will be founded on integrity;  
 remote from oppression, you will have nothing to  
 fear;  
 remote from terror, it will not approach you.  
 The word of the Lord.

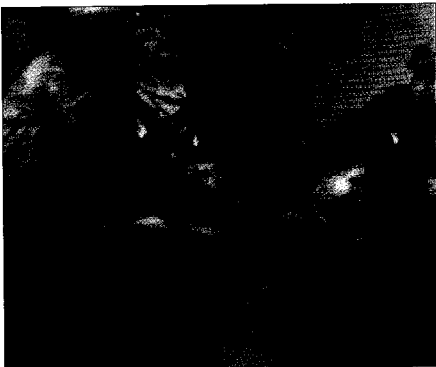
**Thanks be to God.****RESPONSORIAL PSALM***The cantor sings the response which the people repeat.*

(Tone B.)

Ps 29:2,4-6,11-13.R.v.2



1. I will praise you, Lord, you have **rescued** me  
 and have not let my enemies rejoice **over** me.  
 O Lord, you have raised my soul **from** the dead,  
 restored me to life from those who sink **into**  
 the grave. (R)
2. Sing psalms to the Lord, **you** who love him,  
 give thanks to his **holy** name.  
 His anger lasts but a moment; his **favour**  
 through life.  
 At night there are tears, but joy **comes** with  
 dawn. (R)
3. The Lord listened **and** had pity.  
 The Lord came **to** my help.  
 For me you have changed my mourning  
**into** dancing,  
 O Lord my God, I will thank **you** for ever. (R)

**PRAYER AFTER THE THIRD READING**

Let us pray.

Almighty ever-living God,  
 surpass, for the honour of your name,  
 what you pledged to the Patriarchs by reason of their faith,  
 and through sacred adoption increase the children of your promise,  
 so that what the Saints of old never doubted would come to pass  
 your Church may now see in great part fulfilled.  
 Through Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**