

The Feast of the Holy Innocents

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah, chapter 31, beginning at the 2nd verse.

This passage may be found in the pew bible on page 908.

“At the same time,” says the Lord, “I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be My people.”

[PAUSE] Thus says the Lord:

“The people who survived the sword
Found grace in the wilderness—
Israel, when I went to give him rest.”

The Lord has appeared of old to me, saying:

“Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love;
Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you.
Again I will build you, and you shall be rebuilt,
O virgin of Israel!
You shall again be adorned with your tambourines,
And shall go forth in the dances of those who rejoice.
You shall yet plant vines on the mountains of Samaria;
The planters shall plant and eat them as ordinary food.

For there shall be a day
When the watchmen will cry on Mount Ephraim,
‘Arise, and let us go up to Zion,
To the Lord our God.’”

Thus says the LORD:

“A voice was heard in Ramah,
Lamentation *and* bitter weeping,
Rachel weeping for her children,
Refusing to be comforted for her children,
Because they *are* no more.”

Thus says the LORD:

“Refrain your voice from weeping,
And your eyes from tears;
For your work shall be rewarded,
says the LORD,
And they shall come back from the land of the enemy.

[PAUSE] This is the word of the Lord

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The Psalter – Psalm 8

O LORD our Governor, how excellent is thy Name in all the world; * thou that hast set thy glory above the heavens!

Out of the mouth of very babes and sucklings hast thou ordained strength, because of thine enemies, * that thou mightest still the enemy and the avenger.

When I consider thy heavens, even the work of thy fingers; * the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained;

What is man, that thou art mindful of him? * and the son of man, that thou visitest him?

Thou madest him lower than the angels, * to crown him with glory and worship.

Thou makest him to have dominion of the works of thy hands; * and thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet:

All sheep and oxen; * yea, and the beasts of the field;

The fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea; * and whatsoever walketh through the paths of the seas.

O LORD our Governor, * how excellent is thy Name in all the world!

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A reading from the Revelation of St. John the Divine, chapter 14, beginning at the 1st verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 102.

[PAUSE] And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.

And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed

from the earth.

These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb.

And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God.

[PAUSE] This is the word of the Lord