

The Sunday Next Before Advent

The Old Testament is written in the 3rd chapter of the Prophet Jeremiah chapter 3, beginning at the 14th verse.

This passage may be found in the pew bible on page 868.

[Pause] “Return, O backsliding children,” says the LORD; “for I am married to you. I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

“Then it shall come to pass, when you are multiplied and increased in the land in those days,” says the LORD, “that they will say no more, ‘The ark of the covenant of the LORD.’ It shall not come to mind, nor shall they remember it, nor shall they visit *it*, nor shall it be made anymore.

“At that time Jerusalem shall be

called The Throne of the LORD, and all the nations shall be gathered to it, to the name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. No more shall they follow the dictates of their evil hearts.

“In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given as an inheritance to your fathers.

[Pause] This is the word of the Lord.

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Psalm 39:1-8

**I SAID, I will take heed to my ways, *
that I offend not in my tongue**

**I will keep my mouth as it were with a
bridle, * while the ungodly is in my
sight.**

**I held my tongue, and spake nothing: * I
kept silence, yea, even from good words;
but it was pain and grief to me.**

**My heart was hot within me: and while
I was thus musing the fire kindled, *and
at the last I spake with my tongue:**

**LORD, let me know mine end, and the
number of my days; * that I may be
certified how long I have to live.**

**Behold, thou hast made my days as it
were a span long, and mine age is even
as nothing in respect of thee; * and
verily every man living is altogether
vanity.**

**For man walketh in a vain shadow, and
disquieteth himself in vain; * he heapeth
up riches, and cannot tell who shall
gather them.**

**And now, Lord, what is my hope? *
truly my hope is even in thee.**

Deliver me from all mine offences; * and

make me not a rebuke unto the foolish.

**I became dumb, and opened not my
mouth; * for it was thy doing.**

**Take thy plague away from me: * I am
even consumed by the means of thy heavy
hand.**

**When thou with rebukes dost chasten man
for sin, thou makest his beauty to consume
away, like as it were a moth fretting a
garment: * every man therefore is but
vanity.**

**Hear my prayer, O LORD, and with thine
ears consider my calling; * hold not thy
peace at my tears;**

**For I am a stranger with thee, and a
sojourner, * as all my fathers were.**

**O spare me a little, that I may recover my
strength, * before I go hence, and be no
more seen.**

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For the Epistle, a reading from the continuation of the Prophet Jeremiah, chapter 23, beginning at the 5th verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer, page 117.

[Pause] BEHOLD, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgement and justice in the earth. In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called,

THE LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; but, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north-country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land.

[Pause] This is the word of the Lord.