

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

**The way of the just is smooth;
the path of the just you make level.**

**The course of your judgments, LORD, we await;
your name and your memory
are the desire of our souls.**

**My soul yearns for you at night,
yes, my spirit within me seeks you at dawn;
when your judgment comes upon the earth,
the world's inhabitants learn justice.**

**The wicked, when spared, do not learn justice;
in an upright land they act perversely,
and do not see the majesty of the LORD.**

**LORD, your hand is raised high,
but they do not perceive it;
let them be put to shame
when they see your zeal for your people:
let the fire prepared for your enemies consume
them.**

**LORD, you will decree peace for us,
for you have accomplished all we have done.**

**LORD, our God, lords other than you have ruled us;
only because of you can we call upon your name.**

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**Dead they are, they cannot live,
shades that cannot rise;
indeed, you have punished and destroyed them,
and wiped out all memory of them.**

**You have increased the nation, LORD,
you have increased the nation,
have added to your glory,
you have extended far all the boundaries of the
land.**

**LORD, oppressed by your punishment,
we cried out in anguish under your discipline.**

**As a woman about to give birth
writhes and cries out in pain,
so were we before you, LORD.**

**We conceived and writhed in pain,
giving birth only to wind;
salvation we have not achieved for the earth,
no inhabitants for the world were born.**

But your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise!

Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust!

**For your dew is a dew of light,
and you cause the land of shades to give birth.**

The Word of the Lord