

Christmastide (one)

The Old Testament is written in the fourth chapter of Baruch, beginning at the 36th verse. The book of Baruch is found in the Apocrypha

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God!

Behold, your sons are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on for ever the beauty of the glory from God.

Put on the robe of the righteousness from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting. For God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven.

For your name will for ever be called by God, "Peace of righteousness and glory of godliness."

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height and look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them.

For they went forth from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God's command.

For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.

Christmastide (one)

Psalm 50

- 1 THE Lord, even the Most Mighty God, hath spoken, * and called the world, from the rising up of the sun unto the going down thereof.
- 2 Out of Sion hath God appeared * in perfect beauty.
- 3 Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence; * there shall go before him a consuming fire, and a mighty tempest shall be stirred up round about him.
- 4 He shall call the heaven from above, * and the earth, that he may judge his people.
- 5 Gather my saints together unto me; * those that have made a covenant with me with sacrifice.
- 6 And the heavens shall declare his righteousness; * for God is Judge himself.
- 7 Hear, O my people, and I will speak; * I myself will testify against thee, O Israel; for I am God, even thy God.
- 8 I will not reprove thee because of thy sacrifices; * as for thy burnt-offerings, they are alway before me.
- 9 I will take no bullock out of thine house, * nor he-goats out of thy folds.
- 10 For all the beasts of the forest are mine, * and so are the cattle upon a thousand hills.
- 11 I know all the fowls upon the mountains, * and the wild beasts of the field are in my sight.
- 12 If I be hungry, I will not tell thee; * for the whole world is mine, and all that is therein.
- 13 Thinkest thou that I will eat bulls' flesh, * and drink the blood of goats?
- 14 Offer unto God thanksgiving, * and pay thy vows unto the Most Highest.
- 15 And call upon me in the time of trouble; * so will I hear thee, and thou shalt praise me.
- 16 But unto the ungodly saith God, * Why dost thou preach my laws, and takest my covenant in thy mouth;
- 17 Whereas thou hatest to be reformed, * and hast cast my words behind thee?
- 18 When thou sawest a thief, thou consentedst unto him; * and hast been partaker with the adulterers.
- 19 Thou hast let thy mouth speak wickedness, * and with thy tongue thou hast set forth deceit.

20 Thou sattest and spakest against thy brother; * yea, and hast slandered thine own mother's son.

21 These things hast thou done, and I held my tongue, and thou thoughtest wickedly, that I am even such a one as thyself; * but I will reprove thee, and set before thee the things that thou hast done.

22 O consider this, ye that forget God, * lest I pluck you away, and there be none to deliver you.

23 Whoso offereth me thanks and praise, he honoureth me; * and to him that ordereth his way aright, will I show the salvation of God.

Glory be...

Christmastide (one)

The New Testament is written in the first chapter of Hebrews, beginning at the first verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 96.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

GOD, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.

For unto which of the angels said he at any time, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee? And again, I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son? And again, when he bringeth in the first-begotten into the world, he

saith, And let all the angels of God worship him. And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire.

But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom. Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: they shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; and as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.