

A READING FROM THE PROPHET MALACHI 3:1-4

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 85: 7-13

¹ Show us your mercy, O Lord, and grant us your salvation.

² I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, for he is speaking peace to his faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to him.

³ Truly his salvation is very near to those who fear him, that his glory may dwell in our land.

⁴ Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

⁵ Truth shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.

⁶ The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

⁷ Righteousness shall go before him, and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.

