

Isaiah assures the Israelites of God's abiding love and care for them, especially when circumstances appear most threatening.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH [43:1-7]

Thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight, and honored, and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth-- everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 29 *(said in unison)*

- ¹ Ascribe to the LORD, you gods, *
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ² Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his Name; *
worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.
- ³ The voice of the LORD is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders; *
the LORD is upon the mighty waters.
- ⁴ The voice of the LORD is a powerful voice; *
the voice of the LORD is a voice of splendor.
- ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedar trees; *
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
- ⁶ He makes Lebanon skip like a calf, *
and Mount Hermon like a young wild ox.
- ⁷ The voice of the LORD splits the flames of fire;
the voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; *
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁸ The voice of the LORD makes the oak trees writhe *
and strips the forests bare.
- ⁹ And in the temple of the LORD *
all are crying, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰ The LORD sits enthroned above the flood; *
the LORD sits enthroned as King for evermore.
- ¹¹ The LORD shall give strength to his people; *
the LORD shall give his people the blessing of peace.

Peter and John draw Christians deeper into the love of the Holy Trinity by praying for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

A READING FROM THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES [8:14-17]

When the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Word of the Lord.