

A READING FROM JOEL 2:21-27

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

*The Word of the Lord.*

PSALM 78:126

*Said by half verse*

<sup>1</sup> When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*

then were we like those who dream.

<sup>2</sup> Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*

and our tongue with shouts of joy.

<sup>3</sup> Then they said among the nations, \*

“The Lord has done great things for them.”

<sup>4</sup> The Lord has done great things for us, \*

and we are glad indeed.

<sup>5</sup> Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*

like the watercourses of the Negev.

<sup>6</sup> Those who sowed with tears \*

will reap with songs of joy.

<sup>7</sup> Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*

will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.