

## **A Reading from Isaiah 42:5-9**

Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you;

I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Psalm 126** *(Said by half verse)*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,  
then were we like those who dream.

Then was our mouth filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

Then they said among the nations,  
“The Lord had done great things for them.”

The Lord had done great things for us,  
and we are glad indeed.

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

Those who sowed with tears  
will reap with songs of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed,  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.