

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF JUDGES (9:50-55)

Abimelech went to Thebez, and encamped against Thebez, and took it. But there was a strong tower within the city, and all the men and women and all the lords of the city fled to it and shut themselves in; and they went to the roof of the tower. Abimelech came to the tower, and fought against it, and came near to the entrance of the tower to burn it with fire. But a certain woman threw an upper millstone on Abimelech's head, and crushed his skull. Immediately he called to the young man who carried his armor and said to him, "Draw your sword and kill me, so people will not say about me, 'A woman killed him.'" So the young man thrust him through, and he died. When the Israelites saw that Abimelech was dead, they all went home.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

PSALM 102:18-28

¹⁸ Let this be written for a future generation, *
so that a people yet unborn may praise the Lord.

¹⁹ For the Lord looked down from his holy place on high; *
from the heavens he beheld the earth;

²⁰ That he might hear the groan of the captive *
and set free those condemned to die;

²¹ That they may declare in Zion the Name of the Lord, *
and his praise in Jerusalem;

²² When the peoples are gathered together, *
and the kingdoms also, to serve the Lord.

²³ He has brought down my strength before my time; *
he has shortened the number of my days;

²⁴ And I said, "O my God, do not take me away in the midst of my days; *
your years endure throughout all generations.

²⁵ In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, *
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

²⁶ They shall perish, but you will endure;
they all shall wear out like a garment; *

as clothing you will change them,
and they shall be changed;

²⁷ But you are always the same, *
and your years will never end.

²⁸ The children of your servants shall continue, *
and their offspring shall stand fast in your sight."