

**A READING FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH (50:4-9a)**

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.

Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.

The Lord God has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious,  
I did not turn backward.

I gave my back to those who struck me,  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;  
I did not hide my face from insult and spitting.

The Lord God helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.

Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together.

Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me.

It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**PSALM 70 (SAID TOGETHER)**

<sup>1</sup> Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup> Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogether dismayed; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

<sup>3</sup> Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back, because they are ashamed.

<sup>4</sup> Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you, let those who love your salvation say for ever, "Great is the Lord."

<sup>5</sup> But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me speedily, O God.

<sup>6</sup> You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.