

**A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

**The wilderness and the parched land will exult;  
the Arabah will rejoice and bloom;  
like the crocus it shall bloom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joyful song.**

**The glory of Lebanon will be given to it,  
the splendor of Carmel and Sharon;  
they will see the glory of the LORD,  
the splendor of our God.**

**Strengthen hands that are feeble,  
make firm knees that are weak,  
say to the fearful of heart:  
be strong, do not fear!**

**Here is your God,  
he comes with vindication;  
with divine recompense  
he comes to save you.**

**Then the eyes of the blind shall see,  
and the ears of the deaf be opened;  
then the lame shall leap like a stag,  
and the mute tongue sing for joy.**

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**For waters will burst forth in the wilderness,  
and streams in the Arabah.**

**The burning sands will become pools,  
and the thirsty ground, springs of water;  
the abode where jackals crouch  
will be a marsh for the reed and papyrus.**

**A highway will be there,  
called the holy way;  
no one unclean may pass over it,  
but it will be for his people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray on it.**

**No lion shall be there,  
nor any beast of prey approach, nor be found.**

**But there the redeemed shall walk,  
and the ransomed of the LORD shall return,  
and enter Zion singing,  
crowned with everlasting joy;  
they meet with joy and gladness,  
sorrow and mourning flee away.**

**The Word of the Lord**