

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

**The way of the just is smooth;**

**the path of the just you make level.**

**The course of your judgments, LORD, we await;**

**your name and your memory**

**are the desire of our souls.**

**My soul yearns for you at night,**

**yes, my spirit within me seeks you at dawn;**

**when your judgment comes upon the earth,**

**the world's inhabitants learn justice.**

**The wicked, when spared, do not learn justice;**

**in an upright land they act perversely,**

**and do not see the majesty of the LORD.**

**LORD, your hand is raised high,**

**but they do not perceive it;**

**let them be put to shame**

**when they see your zeal for your people:**

**let the fire prepared for your enemies consume them.**

**LORD, you will decree peace for us,**

**for you have accomplished all we have done.**

**LORD, our God, lords other than you have ruled us;**

**only because of you can we call upon your name.**

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**Dead they are, they cannot live,  
shades that cannot rise;  
indeed, you have punished and destroyed them,  
and wiped out all memory of them.**

**You have increased the nation, LORD,  
you have increased the nation,  
have added to your glory,  
you have extended far all the boundaries of the land.**

**LORD, oppressed by your punishment,  
we cried out in anguish under your discipline.**

**As a woman about to give birth  
writhes and cries out in pain,  
so were we before you, LORD.**

**We conceived and writhed in pain,  
giving birth only to wind;  
salvation we have not achieved for the earth,  
no inhabitants for the world were born.**

**But your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise!**

**Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust!**

**For your dew is a dew of light,  
and you cause the land of shades to give birth.**

**The Word of the Lord**