

## FIFTH READING

Come to me that you may have life.  
I will renew with you an everlasting covenant.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

55:1-11

**T**hus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,  
come to the water!

You who have no money,  
come, receive grain and eat;  
come, without paying and without cost,  
drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread,  
your wages for what fails to satisfy?

Heed me, and you shall eat well,  
you shall delight in rich fare.

Come to me heedfully,  
listen, that you may have life.

I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,  
the benefits assured to David.

As I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander of nations,  
so shall you summon a nation you knew not,  
and nations that knew you not shall run to you,  
because of the LORD, your God,  
the Holy One of Israel, who has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call him while he is near.

Let the scoundrel forsake his way,  
and the wicked man his thoughts;  
let him turn to the LORD for mercy;  
to our God, who is generous in forgiving.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

**As high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so high are my ways above your ways  
and my thoughts above your thoughts.**

**For just as from the heavens  
the rain and snow come down  
and do not return there  
till they have watered the earth,  
making it fertile and fruitful,  
giving seed to the one who sows  
and bread to the one who eats,  
so shall my word be  
that goes forth from my mouth;  
my word shall not return to me void,  
but shall do my will,  
achieving the end for which I sent it.**

**The word of the Lord.**