

## **WORD**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

In the days to come  
peoples without number will say:  
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,  
that he may teach us his ways  
so that we may walk in his paths;  
Then the people will hammer their swords into ploughshares,  
their spears into sickles.  
Nation will not lift sword against nation,  
there will be no more training for war  
O come,  
let us walk in the light of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Response**

*Response: Lord, come and save us.*

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free.

**Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

**Lord, come and save us.**

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

**Lord, come and save us.**

## **Prayer:**

ALL: May my life speak as a witness for the light - Jesus amongst us:  
where there is darkness may I bring light,  
where there is loneliness, may I bring companionship,  
where there is pain, may I bring healing.

May my words bring comfort to others,  
as the morning dawn lightens the darkness;  
and may my prayers bring hope to others,  
as the moon gives its glow across the dark land.

May my touch lighten the loneliness and fears of young and old,  
and may the way I carry sufferings and struggles- as Jesus, Mary, and  
Joseph bring hope and strength to others.

When - like John the Baptist -I cry in the wilderness of anxiety, fear  
and hopelessness, may I be heard by God.

And may the light of Jesus shine through the ways I deal with pain, and comfort the pain of another.

May I believe that each person - like John the Baptist -may be a voice speaking the Word of God.

May the way of Jesus Christ - Son of God born into our midst - be clearly the way I walk in my life.

**Leader:**

Gracious God we thank you for David, Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary, whom you led into new ways of finding your life. We thank you for your promise to be a guide for us always.

*We praise and thank you, Lord.*

We thank you for Peter and Paul and the communities of the early Church, whom you inspired with energy and love for the gospel of your son.

*We praise and thank you, Lord.*

We thank you for Mary MacKillop, part of our history in this place, who showed that love for your gospel can grow here.

*We praise and thank you, Lord.*

We thank you for your promise to draw commitment, passion and strength from us for the life of the Gospel.

*We praise and thank you, Lord.*

**Closing Prayer**

ALL: We have your promises, Creator God, to give us the confidence to journey on in life.

We rely on them and your love and presence, knowing that you will walk with us always, for you have made us and you know what is good.

It is with this hope and joy in our hearts that we step into tomorrow, for you are amongst us and give us your peace.

For this we praise you! AMEN