

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

**Comfort, give comfort to my people, says your God.**

**Speak to the heart of Jerusalem, and proclaim to her**

**that her service has ended, that her guilt is expiated,**

**that she has received from the hand of the LORD**

**double for all her sins.**

**A voice proclaims:**

**in the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD!**

**Make straight in the wasteland a highway for our God!**

**Every valley shall be lifted up,**

**every mountain and hill made low;**

**the rugged land shall be a plain,**

**the rough country, a broad valley.**

**Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,**

**and all flesh shall see it together;**

**for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.**

**A voice says, “Proclaim!”**

**I answer, “What shall I proclaim?”**

**“All flesh is grass,**

**and all their loyalty like the flower of the field.**

**The grass withers, the flower wilts,**

**when the breath of the LORD blows upon it.”**

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**“Yes, the people is grass!**

**The grass withers, the flower wilts,**

**but the word of our God stands forever.”**

**Go up onto a high mountain,**

**Zion, herald of good news!**

**Cry out at the top of your voice,**

**Jerusalem, herald of good news!**

**Cry out, do not fear!**

**Say to the cities of Judah:**

**Here is your God!**

**Here comes with power**

**the Lord GOD,**

**who rules by his strong arm;**

**here is his reward with him,**

**his recompense before him.**

**Like a shepherd he feeds his flock;**

**in his arms he gathers the lambs,**

**carrying them in his bosom,**

**leading the ewes with care.**

**The Word of the Lord**