

Lessons and Carols Service - Divinity School, 1990

FIRST LESSON -

The prophet proclaims the good news to a people in exile.

Isaiah 40:1-8

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the
LORDS hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the
way of the LORD
make straight in the desert a
highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill
be made low;
the uneven ground shall become
level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall
be revealed,
and all people shall see it
together,
for the mouth of the LORD has
spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the
flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD
blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower
fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Phillip H. Hunt

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SECOND LESSON -

The Lord promises to send his people a righteous King.

JEREMIAH 23;5-6

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Silbert bond
25% cotton

Marquette Kohn

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THIRD LESSON -

The Lord promises that the king will come to Israel in peace.

ZECHARIAH 9:9-10

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt,
the foal of a donkey.
He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the
war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow
shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to
the nations; his dominion shall be from sea
to sea, and from the River to the ends of the
earth.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

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FOURTH LESSON -

The Lord promises Israel more splendor than ever before.

HAGGAI 2:6-9

For thus says the LORD of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land; and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations shall come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the LORD of hosts. The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the LORD of hosts. The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the LORD of hosts; and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts.

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Sherris Love

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FIFTH LESSON -

The prophet foretells the advent of the Desire of all nations.

ISAIAH 35:1-6

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Car'mel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the
feeble knees. Say to those who are of a
fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear!

Hear is your God.

He will come with vengeance, with terrible
recompense. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and
the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the
lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of
the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

THANKS BE TO GOD.

Kathy

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SEVENTH LESSON -

Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God.

MARK 1:1-15

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved, with you I am well pleased." And the spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

THANKS BE TO GOD.