

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Enlarge the space for your tent,
spread out your tent cloths unsparingly;
lengthen your ropes and make firm your pegs.
For you shall spread abroad to the right and left;
your descendants shall dispossess the nations
and shall people the deserted cities.*

Do not fear, you shall not be put to shame;
do not be discouraged,
you shall not be disgraced.

For the shame of your youth you shall forget,
the reproach of your widowhood no longer remember.

For your husband is your Maker;
the LORD of hosts is his name,
Your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel,
called God of all the earth.

The LORD calls you back,
like a wife forsaken and grieved in spirit,
A wife married in youth and then cast off,
says your God.

For a brief moment I abandoned you,
but with great tenderness I will take you back.

In an outburst of wrath,
for a moment
I hid my face from you;
But with enduring love I take pity on you,
says the LORD, your redeemer.

The Word of the Lord