

A reading from Hosea

When Israel was a child, I loved him, and out of Egypt I called my son.

The more I called them, the more they went from me; they kept sacrificing to the Baals, and offering incense to idols.

Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, I took them up in my arms;

but they did not know that I healed them.

I led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love.

I was to them like those who lift infants to their cheeks.

I bent down to them and fed them.

They shall return to the land of Egypt, and Assyria shall be their king,

because they have refused to return to me.

The sword rages in their cities, it consumes their oracle-priests,

and devours because of their schemes.

My people are bent on turning away from me. To the Most High they call,

but he does not raise them up at all.

How can I give you up, Ephraim? How can I hand you over, O Israel?

How can I make you like Admah? How can I treat you like Zeboiim?

My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender.

I will not execute my fierce anger; I will not again destroy Ephraim;

for I am God and no mortal, the Holy One in your midst, and I will not come in wrath.

They shall go after the LORD, who roars like a lion;
when he roars, his children shall come trembling from the
west.

They shall come trembling like birds from Egypt, and like
doves from the land of Assyria;

and I will return them to their homes, says the LORD.

The word of the Lord

Second Reading

July31/Aug1

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians

So if you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that
are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that
are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with

Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then

you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things-- anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

The word of the Lord

