

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel

The word of the Lord came to me, saying:

“For I will take you away  
from among the nations,  
gather you  
from all the foreign lands,  
and bring you back to your own land.

I will sprinkle clean water upon you  
to cleanse you  
from all your impurities,  
and from all your idols  
I will cleanse you.

I will give you a new heart  
and place a new spirit within you,  
taking from your bodies your stony hearts  
and giving you natural hearts.

I will put my spirit within you  
and make you live by my statutes,  
careful to observe my decrees.

You shall live in the land I gave your fathers;  
you shall be my people,  
and I will be your God.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**