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| Isaiah  26: 7-19  Selection A8 | **A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**  **The way of the just is smooth;**  **the path of the just you make level.**  **The course of your judgments, LORD, we await;**  **your name and your memory**  **are the desire of our souls.**  **My soul yearns for you at night,**  **yes, my spirit within me seeks you at dawn;**  **when your judgment comes upon the earth,**  **the world’s inhabitants learn justice.**  **The wicked, when spared, do not learn justice;**  **in an upright land they act perversely,**  **and do not see the majesty of the LORD.**  **LORD, your hand is raised high,**  **but they do not perceive it;**  **let them be put to shame**  **when they see your zeal for your people:**  **let the fire prepared for your enemies consume them.**  **LORD, you will decree peace for us,**  **for you have accomplished all we have done.**  **LORD, our God, lords other than you have ruled us;**  **only because of you can we call upon your name.**  ***Continued on the Next Page***  **Dead they are, they cannot live,**  **shades that cannot rise;**  **indeed, you have punished and destroyed them,**  **and wiped out all memory of them.**  **You have increased the nation, LORD,**  **you have increased the nation,**  **have added to your glory,**  **you have extended far all the boundaries of the land.**  **LORD, oppressed by your punishment,**  **we cried out in anguish under your discipline.**  **As a woman about to give birth**  **writhes and cries out in pain,**  **so were we before you, LORD.**  **We conceived and writhed in pain,**  **giving birth only to wind;**  **salvation we have not achieved for the earth,**  **no inhabitants for the world were born.**  **But your dead shall live, their corpses shall rise!**  **Awake and sing, you who lie in the dust!**  **For your dew is a dew of light,**  **and you cause the land of shades to give birth.**  **The Word of the Lord** |