

Jacob M: We join in responsive reading on p 465

Bar'chu

I, ADONAI, have called you to righteousness,
and taken you by the hand, and kept you.

Yotzeir

I have made you a covenant people,
a light to the nations.

Ahavah Rabbah

Sh'ma

V'ahavta

cong [We are Israel: witness to God's covenant with our people.

L'maan Tizk'ru

This is the covenant I make with Israel:

Vayomer Adonai

I will place My Torah in your midst,

Emet v'Yatziv

And write it upon your hearts.

Mi Chamochah

I will be your God and you will be My people.

cong [We are Israel: our Torah forbids
the worship of race or nation, possessions or power.

Hate evil and love what is good.

Let justice well up as waters,

and righteousness as a mighty stream.

cong [We are Israel, schooled in the suffering of the oppressed.

Violence shall no longer be heard in your land,
desolation and destruction within your borders.

All your children shall be taught of Adonai,
and great shall be the peace of your children.

cong [We are Israel, O God, when we are witnesses to Your will
and messengers of Your truth.

You are My witnesses, says Adonai,

and My servant, whom I have chosen;

know Me, therefore, and put your trust in Me.

cong [We are Israel, O God, when we proclaim You the God of freedom,
As did our ancestors on the shores of the sea:

The three letters of the word אֱמֶת *Emet, truth*, appear at the beginning, the middle and end of the alef-bet, signifying the totality of creation. In the first words of Torah, each ends with these letters: בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת; בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים; בְּרָאשִׁית בְּרָא אֱלֹהִים *Bereshit bara Elohim; bara Elohim et*, suggesting that Creation is balanced and whole.