

## **Seventh Reading**

### **Ezekiel 36:16-17A, 18-28**

#### **Israel's New Life**

<sup>16</sup> The Lord spoke to me. <sup>17</sup> "Mortal man," he said, "when the Israelites were living in their land, they defiled it by the way they lived and acted. I regarded their behavior as being ritually unclean as a woman is during her monthly period. <sup>18</sup> I let them feel the force of my anger because of the murders they had committed in the land and because of the idols by which they had defiled it. <sup>19</sup> I condemned them for the way they lived and acted, and I scattered them through foreign countries. <sup>20</sup> Wherever they went, they brought disgrace on my holy name, because people would say, 'These are the people of the Lord, but they had to leave his land.' <sup>21</sup> That made me concerned for my holy name, since the Israelites brought disgrace on it everywhere they went.

<sup>22</sup> "Now then, give the Israelites the message that I, the Sovereign Lord, have made for them: 'What I am going to do is not for the sake of you Israelites, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have disgraced in every country where you have gone. <sup>23</sup> When I demonstrate to the nations the holiness of my great name – the name you disgraced among them – then they will know that I am the Lord. I, the Sovereign Lord, have spoken. I will use you to show the nations that I am holy.

<sup>24</sup> I will take you from every nation and country and bring you back to your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water on you and make you will be clean from all your idols and everything else that has defiled you. <sup>26</sup> I will give you a new heart and a new mind. I will take away your stubborn heart of stone and give you an obedient heart. <sup>27</sup> I will put my Spirit in you and will see to it that you follow my laws and keep all the commandments I have given you. <sup>28</sup> Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors. You will be my people, and I will be your God.

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