

## Reading

Song of Songs 2: 8–10. 14. 16. 8: 6–7

*Love is strong as Death.*

A reading from the Song of Songs.

- 8 I hear my Beloved.  
See how he comes  
leaping on the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.
- 9 My Beloved is like a gazelle,  
like a young stag.  
See where he stands  
behind our wall.  
He looks in at the window,  
he peers through the lattice.
- 10 My Beloved lifts up his voice,  
he says to me,  
'Come then, my love,  
my lovely one, come.
- 14 My dove, hiding in the clefts of the rock.  
In the coverts of the cliff, show me your face,  
let me hear your voice;  
for your voice is sweet  
and your face is beautiful.'
- 16 My beloved is mine and I am his.
- 8:6 Set me like a seal on your heart,  
like a seal on your arm.  
For love is strong as Death,  
jealousy relentless as Sheol.  
The flash of it is a flash of fire,  
a flame of the Lord himself.
- 7 Love no flood can quench,  
no torrents drown.

The word of the Lord.