264 | ראש השנה: שחרית: קריאת התורה

## "We read responsively"



## Zichronot: The Divine Awakens within Us

The Divine awakens within us — a sudden awareness of Your presence:

Seeing signs of Your compassion, we say "God remembered" —
God remembered Noah and all the beasts that were with him in the ark,
and God caused a wind to blow across the earth, and the waters subsided.

When cruelty and hate diminish, we say "God remembered" — The Israelites were groaning under the bondage and cried out; God heard their moaning, and God remembered the covenant with Abraham and Isaac and Jacob.

Surprised by joy, we say "God remembered" —

Then God remembered Rachel, and God gave heed to her and opened her womb.

Overcoming anger, finding strength to forgive, we say "God remembered" —

God remembered the covenant and, with great love, had a change of heart.

The Divine awakens within us — a sudden awareness of Your presence:

When we feel our kinship with all creatures of earth, we say "God, remember" —

I will remember My covenant between Me and you and all living creatures.

הוֹצָאַת הַתּוֹרָה Hotzaat HaTorah

שְלש נֶשְרֵה מִדּוֹת Sh'losh-esreih Midot

הַקֶּפָּה Hakafah

בְּרְכוֹת הַתּוֹרָה Birchot HaTorah

בָּרְבָּת הַגּוֹמֵל Birkat HaGomeil

מִי שָּבַּרְדְּ לְעוֹלִים לְתּוֹרָה Mi Shebeirach L'olim LaTorah

קְרִיאַת הַתּוֹרָה K'riat HaTorah

מִי שֶׁבַּרָךְ לְרְפּוּאָה Mishebeirach Lirfuah

הַבְּכָּהָה וּבְּלִילָה Hagbahah Uglilah

בְּרָכָה שָּלְפְנֵי הַהָפְטָרָה B'rachah Shelifnei HaHaftarah

קְרִיאַת הַהַפְּטָרָה K'riat HaHaftarah

ּיַרְכָה שָּאַחְרֵי הַסְפְּטָרָה B'rachah She-acharei HaHaftarah

שוֹפָר: זְכְרוֹנוֹת Shofar: Zichronot

תְּפְלּוֹת הַקְּהַלָּה T'filot HaK'hilah

הַכְנָסֵת סַפָּר תּוֹרָה Hachnasat Sefer Torah

שוֹפֶר: שוֹפֶרוֹת Shofar: Shofarot

A SUDDEN AWARENESS OF YOUR PRESENCE. This prayer (pp. 264–65) incorporates the following biblical verses (shown in italics): Genesis 8:1; Exodus 2:23–24; Genesis 30:22; Psalm 106:45; Genesis 9:15; Psalm 25:6–7; Psalm 111:5; Jeremiah 2:2; Leviticus 26:42; Ezekiel 16:60; Jeremiah 31:20; and Leviticus 26:45.

SEEING SIGNS OF YOUR COMPASSION, WE SAY "GOD REMEMBERED." To apply the verb "remember" to God is an obvious anthropomorphism; we cannot suppose that God literally forgets and then recalls information, as we do. Rather, Rabbi Abraham ibn Ezra (1089–1164) teaches, "When one observes the manifestation of God's benevolence on earth, Scripture describes it as if God remembered." That is, the language of "remembrance" describes our experience of God's compassion and care.