Days of Reflection and Renewal

Welcoming Shabbat

Sh'ma and Its Blessings

Standing before God

Prayers for Healing

Recalling Our Purpose

Recalling Our Loved Ones

The Voice of Return

Songs of the Heart

Dodi Li

Dodi li, vaani lo, haro eh bashoshanim.

Mi zot olah min hamidbar,

m'kuteret mor ulvonah?

Libavtini, achoti chalah — libavtini.

Uri tzafon! Uvo∙i teiman!

דּוֹדִי לִי וַאֲבִי לוֹ הָרֹעֶה בַּשּוֹשַׁבִּים. מִי זֹאת עֹלָה מִן־הַמִּדְבָּר מְקֶפֶּרֶת מוֹר וּלְבוֹנָה. לִבַּבְתְּנִי אֲחֹתִי כַלָּה – לִבַּבְתְּינִי. עוֹרי צפוֹן, וּבוֹאי תימן.

My beloved is mine, and I am my beloved's—feasting among the lilies.

Who comes now from the wilderness, rising like fragrant myrrh and frankincense?

You have captured my heart, my beloved. Awake, north wind! O south wind—come!

Ozi V'zimrat Yah

Ozi v'zimrat Yah vaihi li lishua. עָזִּי וְזִמְרָת יָהּ וַיִּהִי־לִי לִישׁוּעֵה.

My strength and Your song will be my salvation.

Hineih Mah Tov

Hineih mah tov umah na·im: shevet achim/achayot qam yachad. הָנֵּה מַה־טּוֹב וּמַה־נָּעִים שֶׁבֶת אַחִים/אֵחָיוֹת גַּם־יַחַד.

How good and how pleasant — Brothers and sisters gathered together!

DODI LI דְּדִי לִי Song of Songs 2:16; 3:6; 4:9, 16. Love is the theme of the month of Elul, in part because the initial Hebrew letters of Song of Songs 6:3 — "I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine" (אֲבִי לְדוֹדִי לְדוֹדִי לְדוֹדִי לִדִּי ֹן בּוֹדִי לִדְּיִ לְדוֹדִי לִּלִי)—spell out the word Elul. Our Sages saw the verse as expressing the tender mutual devotion that makes t'shuvah possible. If we turn with open hearts to the Holy One, God is forever ready to embrace us with love.

MY STRENGTH עָּיִי אָרָ Psalm 118:14. Our own strength, sustained by a power beyond ourselves, allows us to persist in the face of life's challenges.

HINEIH MAH TOV