

## *The Covenant of Milah*

### בְּרִית מִילָה

☞ *This ritual is conducted on the eighth day.*

#### בְּרוּךְ הַבֵּא.

Blessed be the child whom we now welcome.

The rite of circumcision has been enjoined on us as a sign of our covenant with God, as it is written, 'And God said to Abraham: You shall keep My covenant, you and your children after you. He who is eight days old shall be circumcised, every male throughout your generations.'

We recall the Prophetic promise that one day this sign of our covenant with God will be imprinted not only upon our flesh, but upon our hearts and the hearts of our children. So shall we rise to the selfless love of God, and therein find new life.

May we, like our father Abraham, obey the command of God: Walk with integrity before Me [*Genesis 17:1*].

*A PARENT:*

Joyfully we present our son for the covenant of circumcision:

וַיְקַם עֵדוּת בְּיַעֲקֹב, וְתוֹרָה שָׁם בְּיִשְׂרָאֵל, אֲשֶׁר צִוָּה אֶת־אֲבוֹתֵינוּ  
לְהוֹדִיעַם לְבָנֵיהֶם; לְמַעַן יָדְעוּ דוֹר אַחֲרוֹן בָּנִים יוֹלְדוּ. זָכַר לְעוֹלָם  
בְּרִיתוֹ, דָּבָר צִוָּה לְאַלְפֵי דוֹר: אֲשֶׁר כָּרַת אֶת־אֲבֹרָהֶם, וּשְׁבוּעָתוֹ  
לְיִצְחָק, וַיַּעֲמִידָהּ לְיַעֲקֹב לְחֹק, לְיִשְׂרָאֵל בְּרִית עוֹלָם.

Eternal One, You established a testimony in Jacob, You placed a Teaching in Israel, commanding our ancestors to make them known to their children; that the generations to come—children yet unborn—might know them.

You are for ever mindful of Your covenant, the word You commanded for a thousand generations: the covenant You made with Abraham; Your sworn promise to Isaac: the commitment You made to Jacob; Your everlasting covenant with Israel.