

Numbers 6:22-27ⁱⁱ

The lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The lord bless you and keep you;
the lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.
So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

ⁱⁱ **About the First Reading: Numbers 6:22-27**

In this reading, God blesses the people. This benediction becomes an integral part of the temple liturgy and reveals God's intentions toward those who are willing and obedient.

The lord's shining face turned toward the people represents God's favor and loving attention. The peace (Hebrew shalom) that the lord offers includes both physical and spiritual well-being.