

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY, DEC. 13, 2020

Introduction to Isaiah 6:1-4; 8-11;

Listen to a portion of Isaiah's vision in the opening section of the Major Prophet proclamation:

Reading of Isaiah 6:1- 4; 8-11

A Vision of God in the Temple

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. **2** Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. **3** And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." **4** The pivots^[a] on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke.

8 Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!" **9** And he said, "Go and say to this people: 'Keep listening, but do not comprehend; keep looking, but do not understand.' **10** Make the mind of this people dull, and stop their ears, and shut their eyes, so that they may not look with their eyes, and listen with their ears, and comprehend with their minds, and turn and be healed." **11** Then I said, "How long, O Lord?" And he said: "Until cities lie waste without inhabitant, and houses without people, and the land is utterly desolate;

Introduction to the Gospel Lesson: Luke 1:46b-55

In the opening chapter of the Gospel of Luke, Mary who is pregnant, visits her Aunt Elizabeth, and both the older Elizabeth and the much younger Mary, find favor with God. Indeed God finds favor with them and they are inspired for the birth of their new babies. Listen to Mary's Song of Joy after her visit with Elizabeth in chapter 1, verses 46b-55:

Reading of Luke 1:46b-55

46 And Mary^[a] said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
47 and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
48 for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
⁵⁰ His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”