

Daily Reading for Sunday, December 13th, 2020

Reading 1, *Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11*

¹ The spirit of Lord Yahweh is on me for Yahweh has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the news to the afflicted, to soothe the broken-hearted, ² to proclaim liberty to captives, release to those in prison, to proclaim a year of favour from Yahweh and a day of vengeance for our God, to comfort all who mourn ¹⁰ I exult for joy in Yahweh, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in a cloak of saving justice, like a bridegroom wearing his garland, like a bride adorned in her jewels. ¹¹ For as the earth sends up its shoots and a garden makes seeds sprout, so Lord Yahweh makes saving justice and praise spring up in the sight of all nations.

Responsorial Psalm, *Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54*

⁴⁶ And Mary said: My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord ⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour; ⁴⁸ because he has looked upon the humiliation of his servant. Yes, from now onwards all generations will call me blessed,

⁴⁹ for the Almighty has done great things for me. Holy is his name, ⁵⁰ and his faithful love extends age after age to those who fear him.

⁵³ He has filled the starving with good things, sent the rich away empty. ⁵⁴ He has come to the help of Israel his servant, mindful of his faithful love

Reading 2, *First Thessalonians 5:16-24*

¹⁶ Always be joyful; ¹⁷ pray constantly; ¹⁸ and for all things give thanks; this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. ¹⁹ Do not stifle the Spirit ²⁰ or despise the gift of prophecy with contempt; ²¹ test everything and hold on to what is good ²² and shun every form of evil. ²³ May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may your spirit, life and body be kept blameless for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ He who has called you is trustworthy and will carry it out.

Gospel, *John 1:6-8, 19-28*

⁶ A man came, sent by God. His name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness to the light, so that everyone might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, he was to bear witness to the light.

¹⁹ This was the witness of John, when the Jews sent to him priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' ²⁰ He declared, he did not deny but declared, 'I am not the Christ.' ²¹ So they asked, 'Then are you Elijah?' He replied, 'I am not.' 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' ²² So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us.'

What have you to say about yourself?' ²³ So he said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: A voice of one that cries in the desert: Prepare a way for the Lord. Make his paths straight!' ²⁴ Now those who had been sent were Pharisees, ²⁵ and they put this question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the Prophet?' ²⁶ John answered them, 'I baptise with water; but standing among you -- unknown to you-²⁷ is the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo the strap of his sandal.' ²⁸ This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.