

FIRST READING

God will come and save you.

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

35:1-2, 5-6ab, 10

Thirsty deserts will be glad,
 and barren lands will rejoice and blossom like flowers.
 They will bloom everywhere and sing joyful songs.
 They will be as majestic as Mount Lebanon
 and as glorious as Mount Carmel or the plain of Sharon.
 Everyone will see the glory and the majesty of the LORD our God.

The blind will see, and the deaf will hear.
 The disabled will leap about like deer,
 and tongues once silent will shout.

The people the LORD has rescued will come back singing,
 as they enter Zion.
 Happiness will be a crown they will always wear.
 They will rejoice and be glad,
 because all sorrows and worries will be gone.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

146:6d-7ab, 7c-8abc, 10

R. (Isaiah 35:4) Lord, come and save us.

God always keeps his word.
 He gives justice to the poor
 and food to the hungry.

R. Lord, come and save us.

The LORD sets prisoners free
 and heals blind eyes.
 He gives a helping hand
 to everyone who falls.

R. Lord, come and save us.

**The LORD God of Zion
will rule forever!
Shout praises to the LORD!**

R. Lord, come and save us.

SECOND READING

You also must be patient; do not lose heart,
the Lord's coming will be soon.

A reading from the letter of James

5:7-10

My friends, be patient until the Lord returns.
Think of farmers who wait patiently for the spring and summer rains
to make their valuable crops grow.

Be patient like those farmers and don't give up.

The Lord will soon be here!

**Don't grumble about each other or you will be judged,
and the judge is right outside the door.**

My friends, follow the example of the prophets who spoke for the Lord.

**They were patient,
even when they had to suffer.**

The word of the Lord.

ALLELUIA

Isaiah 61:1

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

**The Spirit of the Lord now upon me
has sent me to bring good news to the poor.**

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Are you the one who is to come,
or must we wait for someone else?

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 11:2-11

John was in prison when he heard what Christ was doing.
So John sent some of his followers to ask Jesus,
“Are you the one we should be looking for?
Or must we wait for someone else?”

Jesus answered, “Go and tell John what you have heard and seen.
The blind are now able to see,
and the lame can walk.
People with leprosy are being healed,
and the deaf can hear.
The dead are raised to life,
and the poor are hearing the good news.
God will bless everyone who does not reject me
because of what I do.”

As John’s followers were going away,
Jesus spoke to the crowds about John:

“What sort of person did you go out into the desert to see?
Was he like tall grass blown about by the wind?

“What kind of man did you go out to see?
Was he someone dressed in fine clothes?
People who dress like that live in the king’s palace.

“What did you really go out to see?
Was he a prophet? He certainly was.
I tell you that he was more than a prophet.
In the Scriptures God says about him,

‘I am sending my messenger ahead of you
to get things ready for you.’

“I tell you that no one ever born on this earth
is greater than John the Baptist.
But whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John.”

The gospel of the Lord.