

### Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 (The Passion Translation)

The mighty Spirit of Lord Yahweh is *wrapped* around me

because Yahweh has anointed me, *as a messenger* to preach good news to the poor.

*He sent me* to heal the wounds of the brokenhearted,

to tell captives, “You are free,” and to tell prisoners, “Be free from *your* darkness.”

<sup>2</sup> *I am sent* to announce a *new* season of Yahweh’s grace

and a time of God’s recompense *on his enemies*, to comfort all who are in sorrow,

<sup>3</sup> to strengthen those *crushed by despair* who mourn in Zion—

to give them a beautiful bouquet in the place of ashes,

the oil of bliss instead of tears, and the mantle of joyous praise instead of the spirit of heaviness.

Because of this, they will be known as *Mighty Oaks of Righteousness*,

planted by Yahweh as a *living* display of his glory.

<sup>4</sup> They will restore ruins from long ago and rebuild what was long devastated.

They will renew ruined cities and desolations of past generations.

<sup>8</sup> “For I, Yahweh, love fairness *and* justice, and I hate stealing and sin.

I will rightly repay them because of my faithfulness

and enter into an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their seed will be famous among the nations,

and their descendants the center of attention of the people.

All who see them will recognize that they are the seed that Yahweh has blessed *with favor!*”

<sup>10</sup> I will sing and greatly rejoice in Yahweh! My whole being vibrates with shouts *of joy* in my God!

For he has dressed me with salvation and wrapped me in the robe of *his* righteousness

*I appear* like a bridegroom *on his wedding day*,

decked out with a beautiful sash, or like a radiant bride adorned with sparkling jewels.

<sup>11</sup> In the same way the earth produces its crops and seeds spring up in a garden,

so will the Lord Yahweh cause righteousness and praise to blossom before all the nations!

### For Reflection and Prayer:

What did you hear as you listened to the text? Did a word or phrase stand out in particular? Repeat it to yourself, savoring the word(s).

Meditate on this word, phrase or picture. Notice what speaks to your heart. Tend to that.

Have a conversation with God about what you are noticing. You might journal your thoughts and feelings and how you sense God responding to you.

Savor any consoling words or pictures God gives you. Simply rest in God’s presence.