The First Reading

*The prophet Isaiah foretells the birth of a Messiah, from the royal line of David, the Christ who will rule in peace without end.*

The people that walked in darkness has seen a great light;

on those who live in a land of deep shadow a light has shone.

You have made their gladness greater, you have made their joy increase;

they rejoice in your presence as men rejoice at harvest time,

as men are happy when they are dividing the spoils.

For the yoke that was weighing on him,

the bar across his shoulders,

the rod of his oppressor,

these you break as on the day of Midian.

For all the footgear of battle,

every cloak rolled in blood, is burnt, and consumed by fire.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us

and dominion is laid on his shoulders;

and this is the name they give him:

Wonder-Counsellor,

Mighty-God,

Eternal-Father,

Prince-of-Peace.

Wide is his dominion in a peace that has no end,

for the throne of David and for his royal power,

which he establishes and makes secure in justice and integrity.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Isaiah 9:1-6 JB