

## **A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (9:1-2, 5-7)**

The people that walked in darkness have 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...

For the yoke that was weighing on them, the bar across their shoulders, these you break as on the day of Midian.

For there is a child born for us, a son given to us and dominion is laid upon 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, from this time onwards and forever.

The word of the Lord.