

### **THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK**

The first reading this Sunday is from the Old testament, from the prophet Isaiah. He lived in the eighth century before Jesus Christ. He lived during a time of upheaval and great infidelity. He lived to see his own people carried off into captivity by the Assyrians. As a prophet Isaiah foretold some of what would transpire to Israel. On the other hand, there are any number of visions recorded in the writings of Isaiah which depict the new world that is coming when the Lord sends the Messiah to set his people free.

In today's reading from the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah he records the impact of the Day of the Lord. What will happen when the Holy One of God comes to earth? Isaiah proclaims that the desert will exult and the tundra will break into bloom. The glory of the wonderful cedars of Lebanon will pay a visit to Israel. There will be an impact of God's people. Those who are weak, with feeble hands and legs, shall be strengthened. The frightened will have their hearts made bold.

God will come in a spirit of vindication. God will reward his faithful ones. He will open the eyes of the blind. He will enable the deaf to hear. The crippled will be able to walk, nay, run and leap like a deer! And the mute will raise their voices in song. The coming of the Day of the Lord will be a transformation on the face of the earth. The Holy One of God will come to save the people! There will be great rejoicing, glad singing and unending, uninterrupted joy. Sorrow will be no more.

That is the vision and it all points to Christ's coming. It will be fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Isaiah did not live to see the realization of his vision but he saluted it from afar and he gave voice to it. Can we believe that vision is coming to fruition even in our own times despite the sin we see all around us? That is the question of the week.