

## **Isaiah 61:10–62:3<sup>ii</sup>**

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

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### **<sup>ii</sup> About the First Reading: Isaiah 61:10–62:3**

Today's reading consists of verses from two hymns celebrating the expected glorification of Israel after the restoration of Jerusalem. The prophet, speaking for Zion, first uses the imagery of a wedding feast to express the joy of its vindication, then declares that the outworking of God's purpose is as mysterious, yet as certain, as the processes of nature.