

Fifth Reading

Isaiah 55:1-11

God's Offer of Mercy

55 The Lord says, "Come everyone who is thirsty,
here is water!
Come, you that have no money,
buy grain and eat!
Come! Buy wine and milk – it will cost you nothing!
² Why spend money on what does not satisfy?
Why spend your wages and still be hungry?
Listen to me and do what I say,
and you enjoy the best food of all.
³ Listen now my people and come to me;
Come to me and you will have life!
I will make a lasting covenant with you
and give you the blessings I promised to David.
⁴ I made him a leader and commander of nations,
and through him I showed them my power.
⁵ Now you will summon foreign nations;
at one time they did not know you,
but now they will come running to join you!
I, the Lord your God, the Holy God of Israel
will make all this happen;
I will give you honor and glory."
⁶ Turn to the Lord and pray to him,
now that he is near.
⁷ Let the wicked leave their way of life
And change their way of thinking.
Let them run to the Lord, our God;
he is merciful and quick to forgive.
⁸ "My thoughts," says the Lord, "are not like yours,
And my ways are different from yours.
⁹ As the heavens are above from the earth,
so high are my ways and thoughts above yours.
¹⁰ My word is like the snow and the rain
That come down from the sky to water the earth.
They make the crops grow

and provide seed for planting and food to eat.

¹¹ So also will be the word that I speak –
it will not fail to do what I plan for it;
it will do everything I send it to do.

***The Catholic Children's Bible, St. Marys Press-Christian Brothers
Publications, 2013, Winona, WI***