First Reader: **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF REVELATION**

After this I, John, looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing,

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom
and thanksgiving and honor
and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! Amen."

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

"For this reason they are before the throne of God,
and worship him day and night within his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.
They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;
the sun will not strike them,
nor any scorching heat;
for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of the water of life,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Leader: **Responding by half verse:**

1 I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
2 I will glory in the LORD;
let the humble hear and rejoice.
3 Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD;
let us exalt his Name together.
4 I sought the LORD, and he answered me
and delivered me out of all my terror.
5 Look upon him and be radiant,
and let not your faces be ashamed.
6 I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me
and saved me from all my troubles.
7 The angel of the LORD encompasses those who fear him,
and he will deliver them.
8 Taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are they who trust in him!
9 Fear the LORD, you that are his saints,
for those who fear him lack nothing.
10 The young lions lack and suffer hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack nothing that is good.
22 The LORD ransoms the life of his servants,
and none will be punished who trust in him.

Second Reader: **A READING FROM THE BOOK OF 1 JOHN**

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATE

❧ *The Celebrant then says to the Congregation:*

Let us now pray for these persons who are to receive the Sacrament of new birth.

Leader: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Send them into the world in witness to your love.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**
Leader: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.
People: **Lord, hear our prayer.**