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

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion— to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

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

Leader: **Responding by half verse:**

1 I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of
my supplication,
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever
I called upon him.
2 The cords of death entangled me;
the grip of the grave took hold of me;
I came to grief and sorrow.
3 Then I called upon the Name of the LORD:
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."
4 Gracious is the LORD and righteous;
our God is full of compassion.
5 The LORD watches over the innocent;
I was brought very low, and he helped me.
6 Turn again to your rest, O my soul,
for the LORD has treated you well.
7 For you have rescued my life from death,
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.
8 I will walk in the presence of the LORD
in the land of the living.
9 I believed, even when I said,
"I have been brought very low."
In my distress I said, "No one can be trusted."
10 How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things he has done for me?
11 I will lift up the cup of salvation
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
12 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people.
13 Precious in the sight of the LORD
is the death of his servants.
14 O LORD, I am your servant;
I am your servant and the child of your handmaid;
you have freed me from my bonds.
15 I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the Name of the LORD.
16 I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all his people,
17 In the courts of the LORD's house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.
Hallelujah!

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

But we do not want you to be uninformed, children,
about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as
others do who have no hope.
For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so,
through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.
For this we declare to you by the word of the LORD, that we
who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the LORD,
will by no means precede those who have died.
For the LORD himself, with a cry of command,
with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet,
will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first.
Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the
LORD in the air,
and so we will be with the LORD forever.
Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

RESPONSORIAL PRAYER

Eternal God,
we acknowledge the uncertainty of our life on earth.
We are given a mere handful of days,
and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but your word will stand forever.
In this is our hope
for you are our God.
Even in the valley of the shadow of death,
you are with us.
O LORD, let us know our end and the number of our days,
that we may learn how fleeting life is.
Turn your ear to our cry, and hear our prayer.
Do not be silent at our tears,
For we live as strangers before you,
wandering pilgrims as all our ancestors were.
But you are the same
And your years shall have no end. Amen.