

A reading from 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13 through 18. You can find the reading on page 987 in your pew Bible.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, 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 fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please join me in praying Psalm 71.

Leader: In you, O LORD, do I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame!

**People: In your righteousness deliver me and rescue me;
incline your ear to me, and save me!**

Leader: Be to me a rock of refuge,
to which I may continually come;

**People: you have given the command to save me,
for you are my rock and my fortress.**

Leader: Rescue me, O my God, from the hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel man.

**People: For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O LORD, from my youth.**

Leader: Upon you I have leaned from before my birth;
you are he who took me from my mother's womb.

People: My praise is continually of you.

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Leader: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

(allow them time to stand)

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.