

## **The First Lesson    Isaiah 61:1-3**

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.

*The Word of the Lord.*

**Psalm 42:1-7**

As the deer longs for the water-brooks,

so longs my soul for you, O God.

My soul is athirst for God, athirst for the living God;

when shall I come to appear before the presence of God?

My tears have been my food day and night,

while all day long they say to me,

“Where is now your God?”

I pour out my soul when I think on these things:

how I went with the multitude and led them into the house  
of God,

With the voice of praise and thanksgiving,

among those who keep holy day.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?

And why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God;

for I will yet give thanks to him,

who is the help of my countenance, and my God.