***Introit (Jeremiah 31)***

P: God said, when ISRAEL was a child, I loved Him.

**C: I called My Son out of EGYPT.**

P: The Lord says, a voice in the city RAMAH,

**C: Grieving and crying loud.**

P: RACHEL is crying for her children.

**C: No one can comfort her because her children are gone.**

P: The Lord says, don’t shout in grief.

**C: Don’t cry.**

P: The Lord announces, I bless you for your work.

**C: The people will come home from the enemy’s land.**

P: The Lord announces, you have hope for your future.

**C: Your children will come home to their own country.**

**All: Glory give to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, the same as it was in the beginning, is now, and will continue forever. Amen.**

***Prayer for God’s Word***

P: O God, You make us and save us. You made us in a wonderful way. But through Your Son becoming human, You make us more wonderful. Let us always live in Jesus who came to live with us. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Jesus lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (copy) Amen.

The Old Testament lesson is from Isaiah chapter 63.

 I will tell about the Lord’s faithful love. I will praise God for all the things He gives us, and His great good for the people ISRAEL. God blesses His people because of His mercy and great love.

 The Lord said, “Truly they are My people. They are My children and they will not lie.” And God saved them. When they suffered, He suffered the same. His own messenger came and saved them. In His love and mercy He bought them for Himself. Long-ago, God always took-care-of them.

 But they rebelled and made His Holy Spirit grieve. Then God became their enemy and He fought-against them. But then He remembered long-ago His people with MOSES. Who brought His people and their shepherds out of the sea? Who gave them His Holy Spirit? Who gave His power to MOSES and made the waters divide? Who made His own Name famous and led the people through the water? God did all that.

 The same-as a horse in the desert, the people didn’t fall. The same as cows go into a valley, the Spirit of the Lord gave the people rest. Lord, You led Your people and made Your name glorious.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Galatians chapter 4.

 At the right time, God sent His Son, born from a woman, born to obey the law. The law controls all people, and Jesus came to save us and to adopt us as God’s sons. And because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit from His Son into our hearts. The Holy Spirit shouts, “Daddy, Father.” Now, you are no-more a slave. You are God’s sons. And because you are His sons, you will receive an inheritance from God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 2.

C: (copy) Glory to You, O Lord.

 The Wise Men went home. Then an angel from the Lord appeared to JOSEPH in a dream and said, “Wake up! Take the baby and His mother MARY and escape to EGYPT. Stay there until I tell you. Because King HEROD prepares to search-for the baby and kill Him.”

 And JOSEPH got up in the night and went to EGYPT with the baby and MARY. And they stayed in EGYPT until King HEROD died. Then the prophet’s writing happened perfectly: “I called My Son out-of EGYPT.”

 Herod understood the wise men fooled him. He became very angry and sent soldiers to kill all the boy babies in BETHLEHEM. He killed all of them up to 2 years old. He did that because of what the wise men said about the time the star appeared.

 That made happen these words from the prophet JEREMIAH; “A voice in the city RAMAH, crying loud. RACHEL is crying for her children. No one can comfort her because her children are gone.”

 When HEROD died, one angel from the Lord appeared in a dream to JOSEPH and said, “Get up, take the child and His mother, and go home to ISRAEL. The people who wanted to kill the child are now dead.”

 And JOSEPH got up, got the child and His mother, and they went to the country ISRAEL. But JOSEPH heard that HEROD’s son named ARCHELAUS now reigned over JUDEA, and he was afraid to go there. God warned JOSEPH in a dream, and JOSEPH went to the country named GALILEE. JOSEPH lived in a city named NAZARETH. Then the prophet's announcement happened, “He will be named a NAZARENE.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

C: (copy) Praise to You, O Christ.