***Introit (Psalm 2)***

P: At midnight, all was quiet.

C: Lord, Your almighty Word came down from His throne.

P: Why are the nations angry?

**C: Why the people plan evil?**

P: Kings on earth and rulers plan and meet together

**C: Against the Lord and His anointed Savior.**

P: God sits in heaven and He laughs.

**C: He mocks their foolishness.**

P: Then God speaks in anger.

**C: He makes them afraid.**

P: God says, “I put My King

**C: On My holy mountain, Jerusalem.”**

**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, long ago You gave Your true Light, Jesus Christ, and You made this holy night shine because of Jesus. Thank You for making us know Jesus here on earth. Make us always trust in Jesus, then we can know the full joy of life in heaven with You forever. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 9.

People walking in the dark saw a great light. Light shined on people living in a land full of sadness.

You made the nation grow, and You gave much joy. The people in that nation rejoice the same as people celebrate the harvest. They rejoice the same as people who share victory.

Those people had a heavy burden, but You, God, destroyed their burden. Rulers abused them, but You stopped them, the same as You made the country MIDIAN stop abusing ISRAEL. Soldiers’ boots and clothes become bloody in fighting, those will all go into the fire.

A Child is born for us. God gave us a Son. The government will depend on Him. He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. His government will continue strong, and peace will never end. He will be King same-as DAVID and He will reign His kingdom. He will reign with right judgment and righteousness now and forever. The Lord God Almighty will do this.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Titus chapter 2.

God showed His grace. His grace brings salvation to all people. God’s grace teaches us to reject sinful ways and desires. His grace teaches us to live good, self-controlled lives that follow God. We also wait and watch for our wonderful hope, when our God and Savior Jesus Christ comes full of glory. He gave Himself as a payment. His payment frees us from sin, and makes us His clean and holy people, and makes us eager to do good works.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel is the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2.

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

At that time, the ROMAN king was named AUGUSTUS. He ordered to count all the people in the world. This was the first counting, and it happened while QUIRINIUS ruled the country SYRIA. Everyone went to their home town to get counted.

JOSEPH left the town NAZARETH, in GALILEE, and traveled to King DAVID'S city, BETHLEHEM, in the country JUDAH. JOSEPH was from DAVID’S family. He went with MARY; JOSEPH promised to marry her. MARY was pregnant. While they were in BETHLEHEM, the time happened for MARY to give birth. She gave-birth to her first Son. She wrapped Him in clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Shepherds were in fields nearby, taking turns watching the sheep at night. Happened, an angel from the Lord came to them, and God’s glory shone around them. They were very afraid. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I have good news for you! This is great joy for all people! The Savior, Christ the Lord, was born for you today in BETHLEHEM. This is how you will recognize Him. You will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger.”

Quickly, happened there were many angels, praising God, saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven. On earth, peace to His people.”

The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to each other, “The Lord told us what happened. Let’s go to BETHLEHEM and see it!”

They hurried and searched until they found MARY, JOSEPH, and the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds saw Jesus, they told the people what the angel said about Jesus. Everyone was amazed to hear what the shepherds said.

MARY remembered all these things in her heart, and she continued to think about them.

The shepherds went back to the fields. They gave glory and praise to God, because they saw everything the same as the angel told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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