***Introit (Psalm 119)***

P: Your word is a lamp for my feet

**C: And light for my path.**

P: Lord, Your word

**C: Lives in the heavens forever.**

P: Your faithfulness continues for all generations.

**C: You made the earth and that continues strong.**

P: You make the world continue today

**C: Because all things serve You.**

P: If I was not happy in Your law,

**C: Then my suffering will destroy me.**

P: I will never forget Your commands.

**C: Your commands give me life.**

**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: God, You give all good things. Lead us to think right things, and with Your mercy we will succeed doing them. 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 First Lesson is from Acts chapter 17.

 PAUL was in the city named ATHENS, waiting for SILAS and TIMOTHY. He saw the city full of idols and he became upset. In the Jewish church, PAUL talked with the Jews and non-Jews who believed in God. Every day, PAUL went to the shopping area in the city and talked with people. He also talked with Greek philosophers. They said, “What is this crazy man trying to say?” Other people said, “He is preaching about foreign gods.” They said that because PAUL was preaching about Jesus and the resurrection.

 Those people took PAUL to a meeting place named the AREOPAGUS and said, “You are announcing a new teaching. We want to know about that. We never heard your teaching before. We want to know what your teaching means.” People in ATHENS and visitors there loved to talk about new ideas.

 Then PAUL stood in the meeting place and said, “Men of ATHENS, I see you are very religious. I walked through your city and I saw the things you worship. Also I saw an altar with the words written, ‘For the God We Don’t-Know.’ Now I will tell you about this God that you don’t-know.”

 “God made the world and everything in the world. He is the Lord reigning over the land and the sky. He doesn’t live in a temple that people built. He doesn’t need people to help Him, because He doesn’t need anything. God gives life and breath and everything to people. God first made one man and then all the different people living in the world. God decided the time and place they will live. God wants people to search-for Him and find Him. He is not far from us. We live and move and have life because of Him. Some of your poets said, ‘We are His children.’”

 “We are God’s children, and now you must not think that God is same-as gold, silver, or stone, that a person makes and carves. In the past, people didn’t know God, but God was patient. But now God tells all people to repent. God chose one day when He will judge all people in the world. God said one man (Jesus) will judge, and God proved that because He raised Jesus from death!”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Second Lesson is from First Peter chapter 3.

 If you are eager to do good, who will hurt you? But if you do righteous things and people hurt you, then God will bless you. Don’t fear those people and don’t feel troubled. In your hearts, honor Christ the Lord as holy. Always be-ready to answer anyone asking you to explain your hope. When you explain, show kindness and respect. Keep a humble heart, then those people criticizing your good life in Christ will feel ashamed. If God allows this, it is better for you to suffer for doing correct things, than you suffer for doing wrong things.

 Because Christ also suffered once for our sins. The holy Jesus died for us guilty sinners, then Jesus can bring us to God. Jesus’ body died, but the Holy Spirit made Jesus become alive. And His Spirit went and preached to the spirits in jail. A long time ago during NOAH’s life, those spirits refused to obey God. God waited patiently while NOAH built the boat. In that boat, God saved eight people through water.

 That water now means baptism, and baptism saves you. That isn’t washing dirt from your body, but asking God for a pure heart, because Jesus arose from death. Now Jesus went up into heaven and reigns with God over all angels, all kings, and all powers.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 14.

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

 Jesus said, “If you love Me, you will do what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper to stay with you forever. That Helper is the Spirit of truth. The world (unbelievers) can’t accept Him, because they don’t see Him and don’t-know Him. You know Him, because He lives with you, and He will be in you.”

 “I will not leave you same-as children without parents. I will come again to you. Soon the world will not see Me anymore. But you will see Me. Because I live, you also will live. Then you will know that I am in My Father, and you are in Me, and I am in you.”

 “If a person knows My commandments and does them, then he shows he loves Me. And the person who loves Me, My Father will love him, and I will love him, and I will show Myself to him.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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