***Introit (Psalm 45)***

P: I will make all generations remember Your name.

C: Nations will praise You forever.

P: God, Your throne continues forever. Your kingdom is righteous.

C: You love righteousness and hate wickedness.

P: God, Your God, gave You the oil of joy more than all other people.

C: Your clothes smell good with sweet perfume.

**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 used a star to lead people from other nations to Your only Son. Now we know You through faith. But after this life, lead us to the full joy of Your glory in heaven. 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 60.

Rise, shine, because your light is here! The Lord’s glory shines on you. Darkness will cover the earth, and deep darkness covers the people. But the Lord will shine on you, and He will give you His glory. Nations will come to your light. When you shine, kings will come near.

Look! All of them will come to you! From far away, your sons will come. Your daughters will come with them. You will see that happen and become very happy. Your heart will be full of pride. You will be very happy, because the riches from the earth will belong to you. The riches of nations will come to you. Your land will be full of camels from other nations, from MIDIAN and EPHAH and SHEBA. People from those countries will bring gold and incense. They will announce good news and praise the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Ephesians chapter 3.

Paul wrote: I am a prisoner because of Christ Jesus and because I am helping you non-Jews. God gave me His grace for me to give to you. You know that. And you know God showed me His hidden truth. I already wrote about that. When you read this, you know I understand the truth about Christ. In the past, God didn’t tell people everything about Jesus. But now the Holy Spirit showed that truth to the holy apostles and prophets. The good news is that God gives blessings to non-Jewish people and Jews the same. Non-Jewish people belong to the same family and have the same promise of good news because of Jesus.

God made me, Paul, become a servant for the good news. God gave me His grace and His power worked in me. Of all God’s people, I am the last important. But God gave me His grace. Why? He wants me preach to other nations about Christ’s wonderful rich blessings. From the time God made the world until now, God kept His plans secret. But now, God wants me to show His plan to all people. Why? God wants the church to show His wisdom to all high rulers and authorities. Before God made the world, He made this plan. Now God did His plan through Christ Jesus, our Lord. In Jesus, believing Jesus, we have courage to go to 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.

While HEROD was king, Jesus was born in Bethlehem in the country JUDEA. After Jesus was born, wise men traveled from the East to Jerusalem. They asked, “Where is the child born King of the Jews? We saw His star, and we came to worship Him.”

King HEROD heard about this, and he became upset. Also the people in Jerusalem worried. HEROD called the Jewish priests and teachers. He asked them where the Savior was supposed to be born. They answered, “In Bethlehem, in JUDAH. The prophet wrote, ‘You, Bethlehem, in the country JUDAH, you are not the last important city in JUDAH. Because from you a leader will come. That leader will be the Shepherd for My people, Israel.’”

Then HEROD secretly called the wise men. He asked them what time they first saw the star. Then the king sent them to Bethlehem. HEROD told the wise men, “Look-for the Child. When you find Him, tell me. Then I will go worship Him.”

Then the wise men left. They saw the star again, and the star led them to the Child, Jesus. Then the star stopped. The wise men were very happy to see the star. They entered the house and saw the Child with His mother Mary. They knelt and worshiped Jesus. They opened their gifts and gave Him gold, FRANKINCENSE, and MYRRH.

God warned the wise men, don’t go talk with HEROD. So they traveled home to their country a different way.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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