***Introit (Psalm 22)***

P: I will announce Your name to my brothers.

C: In the middle of God’s people, I will praise You.

P: All the earth will remember and come to the Lord.

C: All the families from all nations will worship You.

P: The Lord is King.

C: He reigns all the nations.

P: Rich people will eat and worship Him.

C: All people who die will bow in-front-of God.

P: God’s children will serve Him.

C: Future generations will learn about the Lord.

P: They will come and announce His righteousness to people not-yet born.

C: They will announce that He finished His work.

**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: Almighty and eternal God, show mercy for us in our weakness and troubles. Use Your powerful hand to heal and protect us. 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.

 The people suffering will not continue sad. In the past, God made people living in the country named ZEBULUN and NAPHTALI shamed. But later, God will give glory to that land near the sea and for the country across the JORDAN RIVER near the sea named GALILEE.

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

 You (God) 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 1.

 My brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, please agree with each-other. No more divisions between you. You should have the same thoughts and make all decisions together. People from CHLOE’s group tell me about your arguments. Some of you say, “I follow PAUL.” And some of you say, “I follow APOLLOS.” And some of you say, “I follow PETER.” And some of you say, “I follow Christ.”

 What happened? Is Christ divided? Did PAUL get crucified for you? Did you get-baptized in PAUL’s name? I thank God I baptized none of you, except I baptized two men named CRISPUS and GAIUS. Then none of you can say you got-baptized in my name. Oh, yes, I did baptize STEPHANUS and his family. I can’t remember if I baptized anyone else.

 Christ didn’t send me to baptize people. No! He sent me to preach His good news. I don’t use fancy words and clever speech, because that takes-away the power from Christ’s death on the cross. For unbelievers who are lost, they think the message about the cross is foolishness. But God is saving us, and for us the message about the cross is God’s power.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 4.

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

 King HEROD arrested JOHN the Baptizer and put him in prison. When Jesus heard about that, He left and traveled to the country named GALILEE. He left the city named NAZARETH and He went to live in the city named CAPERNAUM. That was a small town near the lake in the area named ZEBULUN and NAPHTALI. That made happen the words of the prophet ISAIAH. ISAIAH said: “The country named ZEBULUN and NAPHTALI near the sea named GALILEE, people not Jewish live there. Those people living in darkness saw a great light. The sunrise happened for people living in dark death.”

 Then Jesus began preaching: “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near.”

 Jesus walked near the Sea of GALILEE. He saw two brothers, SIMON PETER and his brother ANDREW. Both men were using a net to catch fish. Jesus told them, “Come and follow Me, and I will make you fish for people.” Quickly the two men dropped their nets and followed Jesus.

 Then Jesus continued walking and saw two more brothers named JAMES and JOHN, the sons of ZEBEDEE. They were in their boat with their father and they were fixing their nets. Jesus called them. Quickly they left their boat and their father and followed Jesus.

 Jesus traveled through all of GALILEE. He taught in the Jewish churches and preached the good news about the kingdom of God. Jesus healed every kind of sickness and trouble. The news about Jesus spread into all of SYRIA. People brought all the sick people to Him, people having all different diseases, pains, having demons, seizures, paralytics, and Jesus healed them all. Huge crowds from GALILEE and the DECAPOLIS and JERUSALEM and JUDEA and across the JORDAN RIVER all followed Him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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