***Introit (Psalm 119)***

P: Bless You, Lord!

C: Teach me Your commandments!

P: How can a young man keep his life clean?

C: Your word protects his life.

P: All my heart looks-for You.

C: Don’t let me stray from Your commandments.

P: I kept Your word in my heart.

C: Then I won’t sin against You.

P: Bless You, Lord!

C: Teach me Your commandments!

P: My hands announce

C: All Your right laws.

P: I will think about Your laws

C: And I will watch all Your ways.

P: I will be happy in Your commandments.

C: I will not forget Your word.

**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: Lord, keep Your family, the church, always in true faith. Then we will always trust and hope in Your grace. And Your great power will always 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 58.

 The people complained to God, “Why do we fast (eat nothing) and You don’t see? Why do we humble ourselves, but You don’t notice?”

 God says, “On the day you fast, you search-for pleasure, and you hurt your workers. You fast so you can argue and fight and hit with sinful hands. Your fasting will not bring your prayers to heaven.” God says, “Do I want this kind of fast? Only one day you are humble? One day you are sorry and use rough cloth and ashes as your bed? You name that a ‘fast’ and say that God likes that day?”

 “No! This kind of fast I want: That you stop wicked actions, that you free people from burdens, and let suffering people go free. I want you to share food with hungry people, and bring homeless people into your house. If someone has no clothes, give him clothes. Don't ignore your own people!"

 "Then your light will shine the same-as sunrise. Your healing will come quickly. Your righteousness will lead you and the Lord's glory will follow and protect you. Then you will call the Lord, and He will answer you. You will call-out for help, and the Lord will say, 'I am here.'"

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the New Testament lesson, a shorter reading from 1 Corinthians 2 and a longer reading from 1 Corinthians 2. Choose one.*

*This is the shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 2.

 PAUL wrote: Brothers, when I came to you and I told you about God, I didn't come with smooth speaking or great wisdom. I wanted to talk only about Jesus Christ crucified, nothing else. I came to you weak and in fear. I didn't preach with wise and convincing words. I preached with the Holy Spirit's power. Now your faith doesn't depend on people's wisdom. Your faith depends on God's power.

 But we do speak wisdom for mature people. But that wisdom is not from this world or rulers in this world. They will die and go away. We give God’s secret and hidden wisdom. Long ago, God planned to use His wisdom for our glory. The rulers in this world didn’t understand God’s wisdom. If they did understand, then they would not crucify the Lord of Glory.

 The same as the Bible says, “No eye saw, no ear heard, and no person thought of everything God prepared for people who love Him.” God showed us this through the Holy Spirit.

 The Spirit searches all things, also the deep things of God. Who knows a person’s thoughts? Only the person’s spirit in him. The same, only the Spirit of God knows God’s thoughts. We didn’t get a spirit from the world. We have the Spirit from God. Then we can know everything that God freely gives us.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*This is the longer reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 2.

 PAUL wrote: Brothers, when I came to you and I told you about God, I didn't come with smooth speaking or great wisdom. I wanted to talk only about Jesus Christ crucified, nothing else. I came to you weak and in fear. I didn't preach with wise and convincing words. I preached with the Holy Spirit's power. Now your faith doesn't depend on people's wisdom. Your faith depends on God's power.

 But we do speak wisdom for mature people. But that wisdom is not from this world or rulers in this world. They will die and go away. We give God’s secret and hidden wisdom. Long ago, God planned to use His wisdom for our glory. The rulers in this world didn’t understand God’s wisdom. If they did understand, then they would not crucify the Lord of Glory.

 The same as the Bible says, “No eye saw, no ear heard, and no person thought of everything God prepared for people who love Him.” God showed us this through the Holy Spirit.

 The Spirit searches all things, also the deep things of God. Who knows a person’s thoughts? Only the person’s spirit in him. The same, only the Spirit of God knows God’s thoughts. We didn’t get a spirit from the world. We have the Spirit from God. Then we can know everything that God freely gives us. We give God’s gifts in words that the Spirit teaches. Human wisdom doesn’t teach about God’s gifts. We teach spiritual truths for spiritual people.

 A person without the Spirit can’t accept teachings from the Spirit of God. He thinks God’s teachings are foolish. He can’t understand because those teachings are spiritual. A spiritual person can think carefully about all things, and no one can judge that person. “Who understands the Lord’s mind and can teach Him?” But we have Christ’s mind.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 5.

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

 Jesus said, "You are salt for the earth. But if salt lost its taste, how can you make it taste salty again? Now that is no good. You throw it in the street and people walk on it.

 You are light for the world. A city on a hill can't hide. People don't light a lamp and hide it under a bowl. People light a lamp and put it on a table and that lights all the house. The same, let your light shine for all people, then they can see your good actions and praise your Father in heaven."

 "Don't think I came to throw-away the law or prophets. I will not cancel them. I came to do everything they say. I tell you honestly, until heaven and earth disappear, none of the law will disappear, not one letter. None of the law will disappear until everything is finished. If someone ignores one small commandment and teaches other people to ignore commandments, that person will not be important in God's kingdom. If someone follows the commandments and teaches the commandments to other people, he will be great in God's kingdom. I tell you, if your righteousness isn't better than the PHARISEES and law teachers, you will never enter heaven."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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