***Introit (Psalm 62)***

P: You people, trust God always! Pour-out your heart to God.

C: God is our Protector.

P: My soul waits patiently for God.

C: My salvation comes from Him.

P: He is my rock and my Savior. He protects me.

C: I will not fear.

P: God spoke one thing. I heard this two times.

C: God, You are strong. Lord, You are loving.

P: You will give-to each person

C: Agreeing with what they do.

**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, in Your mercy, attend our prayers. Free us from our sins and protect us from all evil. 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 49.

 The Lord says this: in the time for accepting people, I answered you\*. In the day for saving, I helped you. I will keep you and make you same-as a promise for the people. You will make the land strong. You will build-up the old inheritance. You will tell prisoners, “Come out!” You will make free those people in darkness.

 The people can eat along every road. The empty mountains will become good grass. The people will not be hungry or thirsty. The hot wind and sun will not hurt them. God has mercy on them and He will lead them. He will lead them to water springs. God says, I will make all My mountains become a road, and I will lift-up my roads. Look, people will come from far-away. They will come from the north and west and from the land named SYENE.

 Heavens, sing with joy! Earth, rejoice! Mountains, begin shouting with joy! Because the Lord comforts His people and He shows mercy for His people in trouble.

 But the people of JERUSALEM said, “The Lord ignores us. The Lord forgot us.”

 God asks, “Can a woman forget the baby she is nursing? Will she have no mercy for the son she birthed? Maybe a mother will forget, but I will not forget you. Look, I carved you on the palms of My hands.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

\* In the first paragraph, sign “you” as one person, not many people. “You” means one person, Jesus, and how He will make His people free.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 4.

 People should see us as Christ’s servants. We are responsible to take-care-of the MYSTERIES of God. Caretakers must show themselves responsible. For you or any court to judge me is no big problem. Truly, I don’t judge myself. I don’t know about any blame against me. But that doesn’t make me innocent. The Lord is the one who judges me.

 So you should not judge before the right time. When the Lord comes, He will show what is hidden in darkness, and He will show the secrets in peoples’ hearts. Then God will make all people praise Him.

 Those teachings are true for APOLLOS and me. I want you to pay attention to those teachings. Don’t boast against each other. Who thinks you are great? Everything you have, someone gave to you. And if someone gave all to you, why do you boast like you got everything yourself?

 You already have everything! You are already rich! You are kings without us! That is what you think. I wish you were kings, then we can reign with you. I think God put us apostles last in line. People judge us guilty, that we should die. Angels and men are watching us. We are fools for Christ. But you are wise in Christ. We are weak, but you are strong. You have honor, and we have no honor.

 Also now we are hungry and thirsty. We don’t have enough clothes. People are mean to us. We are homeless. We work hard with our hands. When people insult us, we bless them. They persecute us, and we keep going. People gossip about us, and we try to make peace. People think we are the worst people on earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 6.

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

 Jesus said, “No one can serve two masters. A person will hate one master and love the second master. Or a person will obey one master and hate the second master. You can’t serve God and money both.

 That is why I tell you, don’t worry about your life. Don’t worry about what you will eat or drink or what clothes you will wear. Life is more than food, and your body is more than clothes, right? Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or save food in barns. But your Father in heaven feeds them. You are worth much more than birds, right? If you worry, can that add one hour to your life?

 Why do you worry about clothes? Look at the flowers. They don’t work to make clothes. King SOLOMON had great riches and glory, but these flowers are dressed more beautiful than him. The grass is alive today and burned-up tomorrow. If God dresses that grass with beautiful flowers, God will do much more for you, right? You have little faith!

 Don’t worry. Don’t ask, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What clothes will we wear?’ Non-believers eagerly want those things. But your Father in heaven knows you need those things.

 You first search-for God’s kingdom and His righteousness. God will give you all these other things also. Don’t worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will take-care of itself. Every day has enough trouble for that day.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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