***Introit (Psalm 84)***

P: People are happy when You are their strength.

C: When their heart desires Jerusalem.

P: Your home is beautiful,

C: Lord of Angel Armies!

P: My soul desires the Lord’s house.

C: My heart and body sing with joy to the living God.

P: The birds find a home for their babies

C: Near Your altars, Lord Almighty, my King and my God.

P: Happy are people living in Your house,

C: Always singing praises to You!

**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, when You show mercy, that is Your glory. Show mercy to all people leaving Your ways. Bring them again with sorry hearts and strong faith, for them to always trust Your true word. 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 Exodus chapter 17.

All the people of Israel left the desert named SIN, the same-as the Lord commanded them to leave. They camped in REPHIDIM. There was no water to drink.

The people argued with MOSES and said, “Give us water to drink!”

MOSES said, “Why argue with me? Why do you test the Lord?”

But the people were thirsty for water. They complained against MOSES and said, “You brought us out of EGYPT, why? You want to kill us and our children and animals with no water?”

MOSES called out to the Lord and said, “What should I do with these people. They are angry and ready to stone me to death.”

The Lord told MOSES, “Walk in front of the people. Take some leaders from Israel with you. The staff you used to make the NILE River become blood, bring that with you. Go! I will stand in-front-of you on the rock at HOREB. You will hit the rock and water will come out and the people will drink.”

MOSES did that and the leaders of Israel saw that happen. He named that place, “MASSAH” and “MERIBAH” because the people of Israel argued and tested the Lord. They asked, “Is the Lord with us or not?”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson from Romans chapter 5.

God makes us holy through faith. Now we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus is the way for us, with faith, that we live in God’s grace. His grace makes us stand strong. We rejoice and have hope in God’s glory.

More than that, we rejoice in our suffering. We know suffering makes us strong to continue and not give-up. And that continuing gives us good character. Good character gives us hope. And this hope will never disappoint us. Why? Because God gave us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with love.

While we were helpless, Christ died for us. At the correct time Christ died for sinners. Very few people will die to save a righteous person’s life. Maybe you are willing to die for a very good person. But God showed His love for us this way: while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the Gospel lesson, a shorter reading from John 4 and a longer reading from John 4. Choose one.*

*This is the shorter reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 4.

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

Jesus went to a city named SYCHAR in the country named SAMARIA. That was near the field JACOB gave his son JOSEPH. JACOB’S WELL was there. Jesus was tired from His travel and sat-down near the well. The time was about noon. Jesus’ disciples all went to the city to buy food.

Then a woman from SAMARIA came to the well to pull-up some water. Jesus said to her, “Give Me a drink.”

The woman answered, “You are a Jew and I am a SAMARITAN woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (Jews avoided SAMARITANS and shared nothing with them.)

Jesus answered, “If you only knew God’s gift, and if you knew Me, then you would ask Me for a drink, and I would give you living water.”

The woman said, “This well is deep, and You have no bucket. Where do You get the living water? Our father JACOB gave us this well. He and his sons and all his animals drank from this well. You think You are better than JACOB?”

Jesus answered, “Every person drinking this water will become thirsty again. But every person drinking the water I give will never become thirsty again. The water I give will become same-as a water-spring inside him for eternal life.”

The woman said, “Please! Give me that water! Then I will never become thirsty again, and I don’t need to come here to get water.”

Jesus said, “Go, invite your husband here.”

The woman answered, “I have no husband.”

Jesus said, “Correct! You say you have no husband. But you finished had five husbands! And the man living with you now is not your husband. You spoke the truth.”

The woman said, “I understand You now. You are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped God on this mountain, but you Jews say people should worship God in JERUSALEM.”

Jesus answered, “Woman, believe Me. The time will happen, people will worship God the Father, but not on this mountain and not in JERUSALEM. You SAMARITAN people worship, but you don’t-know God. We Jews worship and we know God, because God gives salvation through the Jewish people.

But the time will happen, and is here now, true believers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. Because God wants those worshippers. God is spirit. And people worshiping Him must worship in spirit and in truth.”

The woman said, “I know the Savior, named Christ, will come. When He comes, then He will explain everything to us.”

Jesus answered, “I, the Man talking with you, I am the Christ.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*This is the longer reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 4.

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

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Jesus answered, “I, the Man talking with you, I am the Christ.”

That minute, the disciples came from town. They were surprised to see Jesus talking with a woman. But no one asked Jesus, “What do you want,” or “Why are you talking to her?”

The woman left her water jar there. She went to the town and told people, “Come see a Man who knows my whole life. Is He the Savior?” The people went out to Jesus.

Many SAMARITAN people from that town believed in Jesus because the woman said, “He knows my whole life.” When they met Jesus, they asked Him to stay with them. Jesus stayed there two days. Then many more people believed because He taught them. The people told the woman, “First you told us about Jesus and we believed. But now we ourselves heard Jesus, and we know He is the Savior for the world.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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