***Introit (Psalm 116)***

P: The Lord thinks serious

C: About His holy people dying.

P: I love the Lord! He heard me.

C: He heard me cry-out for mercy.

P: The Lord paid-attention to me.

C: I will call-to Him all my life.

P: Death threatened me. The pain of death grabbed me.

C: I suffered worry and grief.

P: Then I called-on the Lord’s name.

C: Lord, save me!

P: Lord, You saved my soul from death.

C: You saved me from crying and falling.

**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 God, look at us with Your great goodness and mercy. Always lead us and protect us in body and soul. 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 Ezekiel chapter 37.

 The Lord’s hand touched me and the Spirit carried me and put me in the middle of a valley. That place was full with bones. He led me walking among those bones. Many bones were lying in the valley and the bones were very dry. The Lord asked me, “Son of ADAM, can these bones become alive?”

 I answered, “Lord God, You know.”

 The Lord told me, “Preach to these bones and say, ‘Dry bones, attend to the Word of the Lord!’ The Lord God tells these bones: I will make breath enter you and you will live. I will make TENDONS and muscles grow, and I will cover you with skin. I will put breath in you and make you alive. Then you will know that I am the Lord.”

 I preached the same as God commanded me. While I preached, I heard a noise, the bones joining together. I watched and saw TENDONS and muscles grow, and skin covered them. But they had no breath.

 Then the Lord told me, “Preach to the breath. Son of ADAM, preach and tell the breath, ‘The Lord God says this, breath, you come from the four winds and breathe on these dead people, then they can become alive.’”

 I preached the same-as God commanded me. The breath came into them and they became alive and stood up, a very large army.

 Then God said to me: “Son of ADAM, these bones are all the people of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dry. Our hope is gone. We are cut-off from God.’

 “Preach and tell them, 'The Lord God says this: I will open your graves and raise you, My people. I will lead you into the land of Israel. Then when I open your graves and I raise you alive, My people, you will know that I am the Lord. I will put My Spirit in you, and you will live. I will give you a home in your-own land. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I announced this and I will do it.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson from Romans chapter 8.

 Now those people belonging to Christ Jesus, God doesn’t judge them guilty. The Holy Spirit gives life in Christ Jesus. The law brings sin and death, but the Holy Spirit made you free. Sin made the law weak and that couldn’t save us.

 But God saved us because He sent His Son as a man for our sin. God punished sin in Jesus’ body. Then the law’s good and right work succeeds for us. Now we don’t follow sinful desires, but the Holy Spirit leads us. Those people having their sinful hearts reigning in them always think about sinful things. But when the Holy Spirit leads people, they always think about things from the Holy Spirit.

 The thoughts of the sinful heart lead us to death. But the thoughts of the Holy Spirit lead us to life and peace. The sinful heart hates God. The sinful heart refuses to obey God’s laws and can’t obey His law. People with sinful hearts can’t please God.

 But you don’t live in sinful desires. You live in the Holy Spirit, if God’s Spirit lives in you. If you don’t have the Spirit of Christ, then you don’t belong to Christ. And if you belong to Christ, doesn’t-matter that your bodies are dead because you sin, your soul is alive because you are righteous. The Spirit of God raised Jesus from the dead, and He lives in you. He raised Christ Jesus from death, and He will also give life for your dying bodies. How? His Spirit lives in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have three choices for the Gospel lesson, all long readings from John 11. Choose one.*

*This reading is John 11:17-27, 38-53.*

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 11.

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

 Jesus went to the town named BETHANY and found that LAZARUS was dead and buried four days ago. BETHANY was near JERUSALEM, about 2 miles away. Many Jews came from JERUSALEM to comfort LAZARUS’ sisters, MARTHA and MARY. MARTHA heard that Jesus was coming. She went to meet Jesus, but MARY stayed at home.

 MARTHA said to Jesus, “Lord, if You were here earlier, then my brother would not die. But I also know that anything You ask God, He will give to You.”

 Jesus said, “Your brother will rise again.”

 MARTHA answered, “I know on the last day, when everyone rises, then my brother will rise.”

 Jesus said, “I am the resurrection and the life. The person believing in Me, if he dies, he will live. And everyone living and believing in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”

 MARTHA said to Jesus, “Yes, Lord. I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, the One coming into the world.”

 Then Jesus went to the tomb, and He was upset. The tomb was a CAVE, and a stone covered the entrance.

 Jesus said, “Move the stone.”

 MARTHA, the dead man’s sister, said to Jesus, “Lord, he is dead four days. The tomb will smell bad.”

 Jesus said, “Remember I told you, if you believe, you will see God’s glory?”

 Then they moved the stone. Jesus looked-up and said, “Father, I thank You that You already heard Me. I know you always hear Me. But I say this for the people standing here, then they can believe that You sent Me.” After Jesus said this, He called-out with a loud voice, “LAZARUS, come out!”

 LAZARUS came out, the cloths still tied-around his hands, feet and face. Jesus said, “Free him and let him go.”

 Many of the Jews who came with MARY saw what Jesus did, and they believed in Him. But some Jews went to the PHARISEES and told them what Jesus did. Then the chief priests and the PHARISEES met together. They said, “What should we do? Jesus is doing many wonderful works. If we let Him continue doing this, everyone will believe in Him. Then the Romans will come and take-away our power and our nation.”

 One man named CAIAPHAS was high priest that year. He said, “You know nothing. You should know that it is better for you if one man dies for all the people. That is better than the whole nation dying.”

 CAIAPHAS didn’t think of that himself. He was the high priest that year, so he prophesied that Jesus will die for the nation of Israel. Jesus will die not only for the nation, but also for all God’s children every place, then He can gather them together. Then the Jewish leaders began planned together to kill Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*This reading is John 11:1-45.*

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 11.

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

 A man named LAZARUS lived in the town of BETHANY, and he was sick. The sisters MARY and MARTHA lived in that town. MARY later anointed the Lord and used her hair to dry Jesus’ feet. LAZARUS was her brother. The sisters sent a message to Jesus and said, “Lord, the one You love, he is sick.”

 When Jesus heard that, He said, “This sickness doesn’t lead to death. Through his sickness, God will show His glory. Then the Son of God will get glory.”

 Jesus loved MARTHA and her sister and LAZARUS. After Jesus heard that LAZARUS was sick, Jesus stayed two more days in that place. Then Jesus told His disciples, “Let’s go to JUDEA again.”

 The disciples said, “Teacher, the Jews want to stone You and kill You. You will go there again?”

 Jesus said, “There are twelve hours in a day, right? If a person walks during the day, he doesn’t fall, because he sees the light in the world. But if he walks at night, then he falls, because there is no light in him.” Then Jesus said, “Our friend LAZARUS fell asleep. I go to wake him up.”

 The disciples said, “Lord, if LAZARUS sleeps, then he will get better.”

 Jesus meant that LAZARUS died, but they thought he was only sleeping. Then Jesus said clearly, “LAZARUS died. It is good for you that I wasn’t there. Then you can believe. Let’s go to him.”

 THOMAS, also named the TWIN, said to the other disciples, “We should also go. Then we can die with Jesus.”

 Jesus went to the town named BETHANY and found that LAZARUS was dead and buried four days ago. BETHANY was near JERUSALEM, about 2 miles away. Many Jews came from JERUSALEM to comfort LAZARUS’ sisters, MARTHA and MARY. MARTHA heard that Jesus was coming. She went to meet Jesus, but MARY stayed at home.

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 MARTHA said to Jesus, “Yes, Lord. I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, the One coming into the world.”

 Then MARTHA went to her sister MARY. MARTHA privately told her, “The Teacher is here and wants you to come.” Then MARY quickly stood up and went to Jesus. Jesus was not-yet in the town. He was still in the place where MARTHA met Him. There were Jews in the house with MARY to comfort her. When she stood up quickly and went out, they followed her. They thought she was going to the tomb to cry.

 MARY went to Jesus. When she saw Jesus, she bowed-down at His feet and said, “Lord, if You came earlier, my brother would not die.”

 Jesus saw her crying and the Jews with her crying. Jesus was upset. He asked, “Where did you lay him?”

 They said, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus cried. Then the Jews said, “Look how much Jesus loved him!” But some of them said, “Jesus can make a blind man see again. He could also stop this man from dying.”

 Then Jesus went to the tomb, and He was upset. The tomb was a CAVE, and a stone covered the entrance.

 Jesus said, “Move the stone.”

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