***Introit (Psalm 28)***

P: The Lord is strength for His people.

**C: He is the safe place for His people.**

P: Lord, I call to You. My Rock, don’t ignore me.

**C: If You don’t answer, then I am the same-as people in hell.**

P: When I call for help, attend my cries for mercy.

**C: When I lift-my-hands to Your holy temple.**

P: The Lord is my strength, my protection. My heart trusts Him, and He helps me.

**C: My heart rejoices and I sing thanks to Him.**

**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 Father, we deserve nothing good, but You give many blessings for Your children. Through every trouble and temptation, give us strong trust in Your love and mercy. 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 56.

 The Lord says to His people, “Do right for all people and what I say is right. Soon My salvation will come, and I will show My righteousness.”

 “People from other nations will belong to the Lord. They will serve Him and love the Lord’s name. They will become His servants. They will honor the worship day and not insult that day, and they will follow My promises. I will bring them to My holy mountain. I will give them joy in My house of prayer. I will accept their sacrifices on My altar. My house will be named a house of prayer for all nations.” The Lord God gathers His people from far-away nations. He announces, “I will gather more people to join My people.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 11.

 I ask, “Did God reject His people?” No! I am from ISRAEL, from ABRAHAM’S family and the family named BENJAMIN. Long ago, God chose His people and He did not reject them.

 Now I am speaking to you non-Jewish people. I am an apostle for non-Jews and I rejoice in that service. Why? Maybe I can make some Jewish people jealous and then save them, also. Because the Jewish people rejected God, then God saved the world. Now if God accepts the Jews, that will mean life from the dead for His people.

 The Jews rejected the gospel and they became God’s enemies. That means good news for you. But God continues loving them because He chose their fathers. When God calls or blesses someone, God never changes His mind.

 In the past you people didn’t obey God, but now God showed mercy to you, because the Jewish people didn’t obey God.

 Now the Jewish people don’t obey God. Because God shows mercy to you, now also God can show mercy to the Jews. God says that all people broke His Law, then He can show mercy to all of them.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 15.

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

 Jesus left that place and traveled around the cities TYRE and SIDON. One woman from the country named CANAAN came and called to Jesus, “Lord, Son of DAVID, show mercy to me. A terrible demon makes my daughter suffer.”

 But Jesus never answered the woman. His disciples came and asked, “Send-away this woman. She continues following us and shouting to us.”

 Jesus answered, “God sent Me only to the lost sheep of ISRAEL.”

 But the woman came and knelt in-front-of Jesus and said, “Lord, help me.”

 Jesus answered, “If we take-away the bread from children and throw that to the dogs, that is wrong.”

 The woman said, “Yes, Lord, but the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

 Then Jesus answered, “Woman, your faith is great! I will answer your prayer.” And her daughter became healed in that same hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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