***Introit (Psalm 92)***

P: Lord, Your works are great!

**C: Your thoughts are very deep.**

P: It is good to thank the Lord,

**C: To sing praise for Your name, Most High God.**

P: It is good to announce Your love in the morning,

**C: And announce Your faithfulness at night.**

P: To praise You with music,

**C: And with sweet songs.**

P: Lord, Your work makes me happy.

**C: I sing with joy about Your hands’ work.**

**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: God, all good things come from You. We are Your humble servants. Give us Your holy desires. Then we will think about right things and Your mercy will lead us to do those good things. 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 33.

God said, “Son of ADAM, I made you to warn the people ISRAEL. When I tell you My word, you must give the people My warning. Suppose I announce an evil person will die. If you don’t warn that person to stop his sin, then that evil person will die because of his sin. I will judge you responsible for his death. But if you warn an evil person and he doesn’t stop sinning, then he will die because of his sin. But you will save your soul.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapters 13.

Every person must obey the government. All authority is from God, and God made the government to reign over us. The person not obeying the government also rejects what God made. And that person will get punished. People doing good don’t fear the government. Those people doing wrong should be afraid. You don’t-want to fear the government? Then do good, and the government will praise you.

The government is God’s servant to help you. If you are doing wrong, then you should be afraid. The government has authority to punish you. The government is God’s servant to show God’s anger against people doing wrong. You must obey the government, not only because God punishes people doing wrong, but because you know obeying is the right thing to do.

Also, that is why you pay TAXES. The government leaders serve God and do His work. Pay everything you owe. Pay your TAXES, your FEES, show respect, and show honor.

Owe nothing to any person, but you should love each-other. Because the person who loves, that person obeys all the Law. The Commandments say, “You will not do adultery; you will not murder; you will not steal; you will not jealously want things.” One sentence explains all the commandments, “You will love your neighbor the same-as you love yourself.” Love does nothing wrong against another person. That is why love does all of God’s law.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 18.

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

The disciples came to Jesus and asked, “Who is most important in the kingdom of heaven?”

Jesus called a child to come. Jesus put the child in the middle of the group and said, “I tell you the truth. If you don’t change and become the same-as children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. A person humble the same-as this child is the most important in the kingdom of heaven.”

“Any person welcoming a child in My name, that person welcomes Me. But any person making a little child lose faith, that is terrible. Better to tie a large stone around that person’s neck and drown him in the sea.”

“Warning to the world because of temptations to sin! Temptations must happen, but bad news for the person who brings temptation! If your hand or your foot makes you sin and lose faith, cut that off, throw it away. Better for you to have no hand or no foot and enter eternal life. That is better than two hands and two feet and God throws you into eternal fire. If your eye makes you sin and lose faith, pull-out your eye and throw it away. Better for you to enter eternal life having only one eye, better than you have two eyes and God throws you into hell fire.”

“Be-careful, don’t look-down-on these little children. In heaven, their angels always see My Father’s face in heaven. What do you think? Suppose a man has a hundred sheep and one wanders away. The man will leave the ninety-nine sheep on the mountain and he goes to find the lost one. I tell you the truth, if he finds the sheep, he rejoices for that one sheep more than the ninety-nine not lost. The same, My Father in heaven doesn’t-want one of these little children lost.”

“If another believer sins against you, go to that person and show him his wrong. Do that privately between the two of you. If that believer listens to you and is sorry, then you have your friend again.”

“But if he refuses to listen to you, then bring one or two other people with you. Then they can witness everything you discuss.”

“And if he again refuses to listen to you, then tell the whole church what happened. Then if he refuses to obey the church, then think about him same-as a non-believer.”

“I tell you honestly, if the church doesn’t forgive that person’s sins, then God in heaven doesn’t forgive his sins. And if you forgive his sins, then God in heaven forgives his sins. Again I tell you; if two of you here on earth agree and ask for something, then My Father in heaven will do that. Because when two or three people meet together in My name, I am there with them.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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