***Introit (Psalm 9)***

P: God will not always forget poor people.

**C: Poor people will not lose all hope.**

P: I will thank the Lord with all my heart.

**C: I will announce all Your wonderful works.**

P: I will be happy and joyful in You.

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

P: The Lord is protection for oppressed people.

**C: He is protection during times of trouble.**

P: People who know Your name trust You.

**C: Because You don’t ignore people searching-for 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: God, You command us to love You more than all things, and love our neighbor the same-as we love ourselves. Give us the Holy Spirit, then we can think and do what pleases You. Then our faith in You won’t become weak, and we will continue to love each-other. 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 Leviticus chapter 19.

The Lord told MOSES, “Talk to the people of ISRAEL. Tell them, you will continue holy, because I, the Lord your God, am holy.”

“Be honest and correct when you judge, and don’t favor a poor person, don’t honor a rich person. When you judge, do right. Don’t gossip. Don’t accuse your neighbor to kill him. I am the Lord. You must not hate your brother in your heart, but you should discuss honestly with your neighbor. Then you will not sin against him. Don’t get revenge. Don’t continue to hate your own people. Love your neighbor the same-as you love yourself. I am the Lord.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Thessalonians chapter 2.

Believers, you know our visit to you was not worthless. In the city named PHILIPPI, people abused us and we suffered much. When we were with you, people caused much trouble, but you know we were brave in God to tell you the gospel of God.

We don’t preach lies or sin or trying to fool you. God approves us and gave us the Good News. We preach, but not to make people happy. God sees our hearts, and we preach to make God happy.

You know we didn’t use smooth speaking, and we weren’t greedy. God is our witness. We didn’t want glory from you or other people. We are apostles of Christ, but we didn’t use our authority selfishly. We were gentle, the same-as a mother takes-care of her baby. Because we loved you, we were ready to share the gospel with you, and share our lives with you. You are precious to us.

Christian friends, you remember we worked day and night to take-care of ourselves, while we preached the gospel to you. We didn’t want to burden you. You know, and God knows, our work with you was always holy and right and without blame. The same-as a father helps his children, you know we encouraged and comforted you. We told you to live pleasing God, because God calls you to share in His kingdom and glory.

We always thank God, because you heard the word of God from us and you believed. That was not man’s words, but truly God’s word. And His word is working in you believers.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 22.

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

The Jewish leaders named the SADDUCEES tried to use hard questions to trap Jesus, but they failed. The PHARISEES heard about that, then they met together. And one PHARISEE, a law teacher, tested Jesus and asked, “Teacher, what is the most important commandment in the Law?”

Jesus said to him, “You will love the Lord, your God, with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and most important commandment.

The second commandment is the same. You will love your neighbor same-as you love yourself. All the law and prophet writings depend on these two commands.”

The PHARISEES were still there, and Jesus asked them a question. He said, “What do you think about the promised Savior? He is the Son from who?”

The law teachers answered, “The promised Savior is DAVID’S son.”

Jesus asked them, “Then how can DAVID speak with the Holy Spirit and say his Son is the Lord? DAVID said, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, Sit near my right hand, until I defeat your enemies.’ If DAVID names him ‘Lord,’ how is He DAVID’S Son?”

No one could answer. After that, no one wanted to ask Jesus another question.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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