***Introit (Psalm 149)***

P: Praise the Lord’s name! Only praise His name!

**C: His glory is above earth and heaven.**

P: Praise the Lord! Sing a new song for the Lord.

**C: Praise Him with His people.**

P: Let Israel be happy with their Maker.

**C: The children of Israel rejoice in their King.**

P: Let them praise His name with dancing.

**C: They make beautiful songs for Him.**

P: The Lord is happy with His people.

**C: He gives salvation for humble people.**

**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: Lord full of mercy and grace, You announce Your Word for every generation. Give Your Holy Spirit to lead our hearts and minds. Then we will humbly believe Your Word, and will become full of joy when Jesus our Savior comes again. Jesus Christ is 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 Micah chapter 3.

 The Lord says this about false prophets. Those prophets lead My people away from Me. If they have food, they preach peace. But if you give them no food, they preach war against you.

 It will be night for you prophets. You will have darkness, no visions, no prophecies. The sun will set for the prophets, the day will become black. The false prophets will be shamed. They will cover their mouths because they have no word from God.

 But God fills me with His power. He fills me with the Spirit of the Lord, with His right judgment and power. Then I can tell the people of JACOB about their law-breaking, and tell the people of ISRAEL about their sin.

 All you leaders of the people of JACOB, you rulers of the people of ISRAEL, attend! You hate right judgment. You ruin everything that is right. You build up God’s city with blood and you build JERUSALEM with law-breaking.

 Your leaders accept bribes and judge wrong. Your priests demand money for teaching, the prophets demand money for speaking. But they say they speak for God. They say, “The Lord is with us! No trouble will touch us.”

 Because of you leaders, God will destroy you. JERUSALEM will get destroyed, and that city on the mountain will become a forest.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Thessalonians chapter 4.

 Dear Christians, we ask you and encourage you to do this in the Lord Jesus. We taught you how to live and please God, and you are doing that. Do that more and more. You know we gave you teachings from the Lord Jesus. God wants you holy for Him. Don’t do sexual sins. Control your body, keep your body holy and in honor. Don’t live in lust and desires the same as unbelievers who don’t know God. Don’t sin against each-other this way. We told you and gave you serious warnings, the Lord will punish these sins. God didn’t call us to live in sin. He called us to live holy. If someone ignores this, he isn’t ignoring people, he is ignoring God, and God gives you His Holy Spirit.

 I don’t need to write you about loving each-other. God taught you how to love each-other. You truly love all the Christians in MACEDONIA. Dear Christians, we encourage you to love more and more. Make it your goal to live a peaceful life. Attend your own business. Work with your hands, the same-as we taught you. Then unbelievers will see you living right, and you won’t depend on any person.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 23.

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

 Jesus told the crowds and His disciples, “The law teachers and the PHARISEES teach the law from MOSES. So you do and obey what they tell you. But don’t follow their example. They preach, but they don’t do the same-as they preach. They put heavy burdens on people, but they won’t help people, not a little bit.

They do things because they want people to see them. They write God’s word big and tie that on their head and wrist. They make their prayer robes fancy. They love the best seats at dinners and in the Jewish church. They like everyone welcoming them in the shopping place, and they like people naming them “teacher.”

But no one should name you “teacher,” because you have one teacher, and you are all brothers. Here on earth, don’t name any man “father.” Because you have one Father in heaven. Don’t name anyone “leader,” because you have one leader, the Christ. The greatest person will be your servant. The person thinking himself important will become humble. And the person who humbles himself will become important.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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