***Introit (Psalm 50)***

P: The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks,

**C: From east to west, He calls all the earth together.**

P: God says, My people, attend! Israel, I will speak against you.

**C: I am God, your God.**

P: I don’t correct you for your sacrifices.

**C: You always give Me burnt offerings.**

P: I will not accept a bull from your house.

**C: I will not accept a goat from your field.**

P: Every animal in the forest is Mine.

**C: The cows on a thousand hills, all are Mine.**

**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 full of mercy, You sent Your Son, Jesus Christ to search-for and save lost people. In Your grace, open our eyes and hearts to see Jesus call us. Give us faith, then we will follow Jesus and live with Him forever in His kingdom. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, 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 Hosea chapters 5 and 6.

 God says, “I will go to My place and wait until they confess their sins and look-for My face. Happens they are in trouble, then they will come to Me.” Come, let us go again to the Lord; He hurt us, but He will heal us. He broke us, but He will fix again. After two days, He will make us live again. On the third day, He will raise us alive and we will live in-front-of Him. Let us know the Lord, let us make our goal to know Him. We can depend on Him coming, same-as we can depend on the sunrise. He will come same-as rain in the spring.

 God said, EPHRAIM and JUDAH, what will I do with you? Because your love disappears same-as morning clouds, and disappears same-as DEW in the morning. I sent My prophets to warn you about future destruction. My words killed them, and My judgment shines the same-as light. I don’t-want your sacrifices. I want mercy. I don’t want your burnt sacrifices. I want you to know God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 4.

 God made a promise to ABRAHAM and his children, “The world belongs to them.” God didn’t make that promise because ABRAHAM obeyed the Law. No! God’s promise works through righteous faith. If God gives blessings only to people obeying the Law, then faith is worthless and God’s promise means nothing. Why? Because the Law brings God’s anger. But if we have no Law, then we can’t break the Law.

 Therefore, God’s promise works how? Faith. Then God’s promise is His free gift to all of ABRAHAM’s children, not only to people obeying the Law. God shows mercy to all people believing same-as ABRAHAM believed.

 ABRAHAM is our father, the same-as the Bible says, “I will make you the father of many nations.” God promised, and ABRAHAM believed. God makes dead people alive again, and He makes new things from nothing.

 ABRAHAM had no reason for hope. But ABRAHAM did hope and he believed God’s word that he will become the father of many nations. ABRAHAM’s body was old and worn-out, he was about 100 years old, and Sarah couldn’t have children, but his faith didn’t begin to doubt. ABRAHAM believed God's promise. His faith became more strong, and he gave praise to God. ABRAHAM knew that God can do His promises.

 That is why the Bible says, “God said his faith was the same-as righteousness.” That is about ABRAHAM, but that is also about us. God says our faith is the same-as righteousness, for all people who believe God raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. Jesus died for our sins and He was raised alive to make us right with God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 9.

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

 Jesus was-leaving that place. He saw a man collecting taxes. That man's name was MATTHEW. Jesus said, “Follow Me.” MATTHEW stood-up and followed Jesus.

 Jesus went to eat at MATTHEW’s house, and many other TAX collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and His disciples. Some of the Jewish law teachers saw this and asked Jesus’ disciples, “Why does Jesus eat with TAX collectors and sinners?”

 Jesus heard that and answered, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor. But sick people need a doctor. Go and learn the meaning of the words, ‘I don’t want sacrifice, I want mercy and kindness.’” Jesus said, “I didn’t come for holy people. I came for sinners.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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