***Introit (Psalm 91)***

P: The person living in the Lord’s house

**C: Will live under Almighty God’s protection.**

P: I say the Lord is my safe place and my protection.

**C: He is my God. I trust Him.**

P: You made the Lord your home.

**C: The Most High God, He protects me.**

P: Now no evil will hurt you.

**C: No sickness will come near your home.**

**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 of mercy, heavenly Father, Your mercy attends us all our life. When this world’s changes and troubles make us tired, You are our strength and support. When this life ends, give us rest and joy in Your saving work, the same as You promise. 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 Zechariah chapter 9.

Children of JERUSALEM, rejoice much! Children of JERUSALEM, shout! Look, your king comes to you. He is righteous and He brings salvation. He is humble and rides on a donkey. He rides on a young donkey.

God says, I will take-away war chariots from EPHRAIM, and I will take-away war horses from JERUSALEM. I will destroy the bow-and-arrow for war. He will announce peace for the nations. He will reign all-over from sea to sea, from the river to the ends of the earth.

I will free your prisoners from the dry PIT. Why? Because of My promise in blood for you. You are prisoners in hope. Go again to your strong city. Today I announce that I will give you double blessing.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 7.

We know that the Law is spiritual and good. But I am a sinner. I am a slave serving sin.

I don't understand myself. I want to do the correct thing, but I don't do that. I do those things I hate. Happens I do the wrong thing, that shows me the Law is correct and good. Understand, I am not doing wrong. Sin lives in me and sin itself does wrong. I know there is nothing good in me, in my sinful body. Because I want to do good, but I can’t.

I want to do good, but I don’t do that. Instead, the wrong things I don’t want to do, that is what I continue doing. If I am always doing the things I don't-want to do, I myself am not doing those things. Sin lives in me and that sin does wrong things.

This is what always happens. I want to do the correct thing, but evil is always with me. Inside me, I am happy with God’s law. But in my body a different law is working, fighting against my mind. This law of sin makes me a prisoner, the sin in me keeps me a prisoner. I am a terrible man! Who will save me from this dead body? Thank God, He saves me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 11.

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

Jesus said, "Thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because You hid these things, then wise and understanding people can’t see. You showed Your work to little children. Yes, Father, that pleased You.”

“The Father finished gave Me all things. No one knows the Son; only the Father knows the Son. No one knows the Father; only the Son knows the Father. The Son shows the Father to people and they also know the Father.”

Jesus said, “Come to Me, all you tired and carrying heavy burdens. I will give you rest. Carry My burden and learn from Me. I am gentle and humble. You will have rest for your souls. My work is easy and My burden is not heavy."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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