***Introit (Psalm 85)***

P: Lord, always show us Your love.

C: Give us Your salvation.

P: I will attend to the Lord speaking.

**C: God promises peace for His holy people. His people should not do foolish things again.**

P: People honor God and He saves them.

**C: Then His glory will live in our country.**

P: The Lord will give good things.

**C: Our land will grow much for harvest.**

P: God’s righteousness shines out.

**C: God’s path is righteous.**

**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 Jesus Christ, we beg You to hear our prayers. Sin makes our hearts dark. Visit us and give light for our hearts. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (copy) Amen.

The Old Testament lesson is from Isaiah chapter 61.

 The Spirit of the Lord God is on me, because the Lord chose me to tell the good message to poor people and to comfort those people with sad hearts. He sent me to announce freedom for slaves and people in jail. He sent me to announce a year that the Lord will accept people, and a day for God’s revenge, and to give comfort for mourning people.

 For all people in JERUSALEM crying, He will give beauty instead-of ASHES, happiness instead-of crying, praise instead-of depression. Then His people will be the same-as strong OAK trees and show His glory. Then the old destroyed buildings, people will fix and build again. The cities ruined for many generations, they will fix.

 I, the Lord, love doing right. When people steal and do wrong, I hate that. I will faithfully give My people good things. I will make an eternal promise for them. Then their children will be famous among the nations and other people. Everyone who sees them will know the Lord blessed them.

 I will rejoice much in the Lord. My soul rejoices in God. A man getting married wears a beautiful hat and a bride wears jewels. The same, God gives me clothes of salvation. He covers me with the robe named “Righteousness.”

 The earth makes good things grow, and seeds grow in a garden. The same, the Lord will make righteousness and praise grow in-front-of all nations.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Thessalonians chapter 5.

 Always be joyful. Never stop praying. Thank God in everything. God wants you to do that through Christ Jesus.

 Don’t stop the Holy Spirit’s work. When someone speaks God’s word, don’t reject that. Test everything and keep the good things. But avoid every kind of bad thing.

 God gives us peace. God makes you His holy people. May God keep your whole person - spirit, soul and body, and keep you free from sin until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. God names you His child. He will do the same-as He promised.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 1.

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

 God sent His announcer named JOHN. He came to tell people about the light. He came for all people to hear the story and believe. JOHN himself was not the light. JOHN came to tell about the light (Jesus).

 This is what JOHN announced. The Jewish leaders in the city JERUSALEM sent priests and church officers to JOHN asking, “Who are you?”

 JOHN didn’t hide the truth. He answered clearly, “I am not the promised Savior, the Christ."

 They asked, “Who are you? ELIJAH?”

 JOHN answered, “I am not.”

 They asked, “Are you the prophet?”

 JOHN answered, “No.”

 They asked, “Who are you? Our leaders want an answer. What do you say about yourself?”

 JOHN said, “I am the person shouting in the desert, ‘Make straight the way for the Lord,’ same-as the prophet ISAIAH said.”

 The PHARISEES sent the people to JOHN. They asked, “If you are not the promised Savior, not ELIJAH, not the prophet, why do you baptize?”

 JOHN answered, “I baptize with water. Among you stands someone you don’t-know, that person will come after me. I am not good enough to untie His sandals.”

 This happened in BETHANY across the river JORDAN. JOHN was baptizing people there.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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