***Introit (Psalm 93)***

P: The people living in darkness

C: Finished saw a great light.

P: Those people living in a dark country,

C: Light shines on them.

P: The Lord reigns. He is clothed with glory.

C: The Lord is clothed in glory. Strength is His belt.

P: God put the world here.

C: Nothing can move the earth.

P: God, Your throne is forever.

C: You live from forever-past to forever-future.

P: People can trust Your word.

C: Lord, Your temple is holy forever.

**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 full of mercy, You sent Your Word to become a true human, born from the Virgin Mary. Give grace for Your people. Then we can throw-away sinful desires and will be ready for You to come. 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 Isaiah chapter 62.

 Go through the gates. Clear the way for the people. Build up the highway. Take-away the stones. Lift up the flag over the people. Look, the Lord announced this to all the earth. Tell the people of ISRAEL, “Look! Your salvation comes! He has His reward with Him. His brings His payment with Him.”

 They will name God’s people, “The holy people. The Lord saved them.” You will be named, “Searched-for. A city not ignored.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Titus chapter 3.

 When the goodness and kindness of God our Savior came, He saved us. Not because we did good and righteous things. He saved us because of His mercy. He saved us when the Holy Spirit washed us and made us new. God richly poured out the Holy Spirit on us through Jesus Christ our Savior. His grace makes us right with God. Then we have true hope we will inherit eternal life from Him.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the Gospel lesson, a shorter reading from Luke 2 and a longer reading from Luke 2. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Gospel is the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2.

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

 The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to each other, “The Lord told us what happened. Let’s go to BETHLEHEM and see it!”

 They hurried and searched until they found MARY, JOSEPH, and the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds saw Jesus, they told the people what the angel said about Jesus. Everyone was amazed to hear what the shepherds said.

 MARY remembered all these things in her heart, and she continued to think about them.

 The shepherds went back to the fields. They gave glory and praise to God, because they saw everything the same as the angel told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The longer reading.*

The Gospel is the Christmas story from Luke chapter 2.

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

 At that time, the ROMAN king was named AUGUSTUS. He ordered to count all the people in the world. This was the first counting, and it happened while QUIRINIUS ruled the country SYRIA. Everyone went to their home town to get counted.

 JOSEPH left the town NAZARETH, in GALILEE, and traveled to King DAVID'S city, BETHLEHEM, in the country JUDAH. JOSEPH was from DAVID’S family. He went with MARY; JOSEPH promised to marry her. MARY was pregnant. While they were in BETHLEHEM, the time happened for MARY to give birth. She gave-birth to her first Son. She wrapped Him in clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

 Shepherds were in fields nearby, taking turns watching the sheep at night. Happened, an angel from the Lord came to them, and God’s glory shone around them. They were very afraid. The angel said, “Don’t be afraid. I have good news for you! This is great joy for all people! The Savior, Christ the Lord, was born for you today in BETHLEHEM. This is how you will recognize Him. You will find a baby wrapped in clothes and lying in a manger.”

 Quickly, happened there were many angels, praising God, saying, “Glory to God in highest heaven. On earth, peace to His people.”

 The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to each other, “The Lord told us what happened. Let’s go to BETHLEHEM and see it!”

 They hurried and searched until they found MARY, JOSEPH, and the baby lying in the manger. After the shepherds saw Jesus, they told the people what the angel said about Jesus. Everyone was amazed to hear what the shepherds said.

 MARY remembered all these things in her heart, and she continued to think about them.

 The shepherds went back to the fields. They gave glory and praise to God, because they saw everything the same as the angel told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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