***Introit (Psalm 24)***

P: I will announce the news,

C: The Lord told Me, “You are My Son. Today I became Your Father.”

P: The earth and everything in it belong to the Lord.

C: The world and all people living here.

P: Who will go-up the Lord’s hill?

C: Who can stand in His holy place?

P: A person with clean hands and a clean heart,

C: A person not trusting lies and not telling lies.

P: The Lord will bless him,

C: God will save him and give him righteousness.

**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: O God, every year we remember Your Son Jesus Christ, His birth, and You make us happy. Let us believe in Him as our Savior with joy. Then we can bravely trust Him when He comes as our judge. 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 7.

 The Lord spoke again to King AHAZ. “Ask the Lord your God to show you proof, ask anything from deep in the world of the dead or from high in heaven.”

 King AHAZ answered, “I will not ask for proof. I will not test the Lord.”

 Then ISAIAH said, “Family of DAVID, listen! Truly it is bad enough for you to test people. You will also test God? Then the Lord Himself will show you proof. A virgin will become pregnant and give-birth to a Son, and will name Him IMMANUEL.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 John chapter 4.

 Dear friends, let us love one-another because love comes from God, and everyone showing love is born from God and knows God. Anyone not showing love doesn’t know God, because God is love.

 God showed us His love; He sent His only Son into the world for us to live through Him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and He sent His Son to pay for our sins. Dear friends, if God loves us that much, then we should love one-another.

 No one has seen God. But when we love one-another, God lives in us, and His love fills us.

 This is how we know that we live in God, and God lives in us. God gave us His Holy Spirit.

 We saw and tell the truth that the Father sent His Son to save the world. If you announce that Jesus is God’s Son, then God lives in you, and you live in God. We know and believe God’s love for us. God is love. The person living in love also lives in God, and God lives in him.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel is from Matthew chapter 1.

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

 This is how Jesus Christ was-born. Jesus’ mother, MARY, was-engaged to JOSEPH. But before they married and slept together, JOSEPH learned that MARY became pregnant through the power of the Holy Spirit. JOSEPH was a good man and didn’t-want to show shame on MARY. JOSEPH decided to divorce MARY secretly.

 But while JOSEPH was-thinking about all these things, an angel from the Lord appeared in a dream. The angel said, “JOSEPH, from DAVID’S family, don’t be-afraid to accept MARY as your wife, because her baby is from the Holy Spirit. When the baby is-born, you will name the baby ‘Jesus’, because He will save His people from their sins.”

 All this happened same-as the Lord said long ago through the prophet: “The virgin will become pregnant and give-birth to a Son. They will name Him IMMANUEL, that means ‘God with us.’”

 JOSEPH awoke and did same-as the angel from the Lord commanded him. JOSEPH married MARY, but JOSEPH didn’t sleep with MARY as husband and wife until after the baby was-born. And JOSEPH named the baby “Jesus.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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