***Introit (Psalm 27)***

P: O Lord, attend me when I call!

**C: Show mercy and answer me.**

P: The Lord is my light and salvation.

C: Who will I fear?

P: I ask the Lord one thing, I search-for one thing.

**C: All my life, I want to live in His house, see His beauty, and find Him in His temple.**

P: On the day of trouble, He will keep me safe in His house.

**C: He will hide me in His temple and make me safe on a high rock.**

P: If my father and mother leave me,

**C: The Lord will accept me.**

P: Wait for the Lord.

**C: Be strong and brave, and wait for the Lord.**

**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, King of Glory, You have victory and You rule everything in earth and heaven. We ask You, don’t leave us without comfort. Send us Your Holy Spirit from the Father, the same as You promised. You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (copy) Amen.

The First Lesson is from Acts chapter 1.

 The disciples were on the MOUNT of OLIVES and saw Jesus go up into heaven. That place is near JERUSALEM. The disciples went back to JERUSALEM. They went into the upstairs room in a house where they lived. The disciples were PETER, JOHN, JAMES, ANDREW, PHILIP, THOMAS, BARTHOLOMEW, MATTHEW, JAMES the son of ALPHAEUS, SIMON the ZEALOT, and JUDAS the son of JAMES. Those disciples, the women, Jesus’ mother MARY, and Jesus’ brothers, all believed the same and always prayed together.

 At that time, about 120 people believed in Jesus. PETER stood and said, “Believers, the Bible prophecy must happen. The Holy Spirit spoke through DAVID about JUDAS. JUDAS led people to arrest Jesus. JUDAS was a disciple with us and he did this work with us.”

 This is what happened to JUDAS. He used his betrayal money to buy a field. He fell and his stomach burst open and he died. The people in Jerusalem heard about that and named the field the Field of Blood.

 PETER said, “The Psalms say his home should be empty and no one live there, and let another man do his work. Now we must choose a man to take his place. That man must have been with Jesus all the time, beginning when JOHN baptized Jesus until Jesus went up into heaven. That man must witness with us about Jesus’ resurrection.”

 They chose two men. One was named JOSEPH, also named BARSABBAS and also named JUSTUS. The other man was named MATTHIAS. They prayed, “Lord, you know people’s hearts. Show us which person You chose to become an apostle instead of JUDAS, because JUDAS went to his own place.” They threw dice and that showed MATTHIAS. He became an apostle with the eleven apostles.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Second Lesson is from 1 John chapter 5.

 We accept people’s witness. But God’s witness is better, because His message is about His Son, Jesus.

 The person who believes in the Son of God has God’s message in himself. The person who doesn’t believe God, that person says God is a liar. That person doesn’t believe God’s message about His Son Jesus.

 This is the message. God gave us eternal life, and that life is in His Son. The person who has the Son (Jesus), has life. The person who doesn’t have the Son of God does not have life.

 You believe in the Son of God. I write these things to you, then you can know that you have eternal life. We know this is true. If we ask God anything agreeing with His wants, then He hears us. If we know He hears anything we ask, we know He gives what we ask.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 17.

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

 Jesus prayed, “I am no-more in the world. The disciples are in the world, and I am coming to You, Father. Holy Father, keep My disciples joined to Your name, the same name You gave-Me. Then they will be-joined in one group the same-as You (Father) and I (Jesus) are-joined in one.

 While I was with them, I kept them joined-to Your name, the same name You gave-Me. I protected them and I lost no-one, except JUDAS, then the words of the Holy Writings would happen true. But now I am going to You. I say these things here in the world, then they will have all My joy in themselves.

 I gave them Your word. But the world hated them, because they aren't joined to the world; same-as I am-not joined to the world. I don't ask You to take them out of the world. But I do ask You to keep them safe from the devil. I am-not joined to the world, the same, they aren't joined to the world.

 Make them holy in the truth; Your word is truth. You sent Me into the world. The same, I send them into the world. For them, I make Myself holy, then they also can be holy in truth.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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