***Introit (Psalm 112)***

P: Light shines in the dark for an honest person.

**C: He shows grace, mercy, and righteousness.**

P: Praise the Lord! Bless that man honoring the Lord.

**C: He is happy with God’s commandments.**

P: He has riches in his house.

**C: His righteousness continues forever.**

P: He doesn’t fear bad news.

**C: His heart is strong. He trusts the Lord.**

P: His heart is strong. He won’t fear.

**C: He will defeat his enemies.**

P: He gives freely. He gives to poor people. His righteousness continues forever.

**C: People honor his life.**

**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, in Your mercy attend to Your people praying. We suffer from our sin. Show Your goodness and mercy and save us, and we will give glory to Your holy name. 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 2 Kings chapter 5.

The chief army officer in the country SYRIA was named NAAMAN. The king of SYRIA respected and liked him, because the Lord gave him many victories in war. NAAMAN was a mighty soldier, but he also had the skin sickness LEPROSY.

Many times the army sent small groups to destroy and steal in the country ISRAEL, and once they took a little girl and she became a servant for NAAMAN’S wife. The little girl said to the wife, “I wish your husband will go visit the prophet in the country SAMARIA. He can heal his sickness LEPROSY.”

NAAMAN told the king what the girl said. The king told NAAMAN, “Go and visit the prophet. I will send a letter to the king of ISRAEL.”

NAAMAN began the trip and he brought; 750 lbs. of SILVER, 75 lbs. of GOLD, and 10 different clothing. The letter to the king of the country Israel said; “The man with this letter is my servant NAAMAN. I want you to heal his sickness LEPROSY.”

Happened the king of ISRAEL read the letter, the king tore-his-clothes and said: “That man sent a LEPROSY man to me for healing! Am I God? Can I kill and give life again? He is trying to find a reason to start war again.”

The prophet ELISHA heard that the king of ISRAEL tore-his-clothes. The prophet sent a letter to the king; “Why are you upset? Send the man to me, and he will learn a true prophet of God lives in Israel.”

Now NAAMAN arrived with his horses and CHARIOTS and stood in-front-of the door to ELISHA’S house. ELISHA sent a servant to tell the man: “Go wash yourself seven times in the river JORDAN, and you will become healed from the sickness LEPROSY.”

But NAAMAN became angry. He walked away saying: “I thought he will come out to me and stand in-front-of me and pray to the Lord his God and wave-his-hand over my body and heal the sickness. Truly our rivers at home – ABANA and PHARPAR rivers – they are better than any water in Israel. Why not wash in them and become healed?” And NAAMAN went away very angry.

But his servants told him, “NAAMAN, if the prophet told you to do something hard, you will do that, right? Then you should obey happened he tells you only to go and wash and get healed.” Then NAAMAN went and washed himself seven times in the river JORDAN the-same-as the prophet ELISHA told him. His skin became healthy again the-same-as the skin of a little child.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the New Testament lesson, a short reading from 1 Cor. 10-11 and a longer reading from 1 Cor. 10-11. Choose one.*

*The short reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapters 10 and 11.

Happen you eat or drink, or anything you do, give glory to God. Don’t insult Jewish people or Greek people or God’s church. The same, I try to serve everyone in everything I do. I don’t do what is best for me. I do what is best for many people, so they can become saved. You follow my example, the same as I follow Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The long reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapters 10 and 11.

What am I saying? Am I saying that food given to idols means something? Or am I saying an idol is real? No. I’m saying when non-Christians give sacrifices to demons, not God. I don’t want you eating with demons. You can’t drink the Lord’s cup and demon’s cup. You can’t eat the Lord’s Supper and also eat food with demons. You think we can make the Lord jealous? Are you stronger than God?

Someone says, “God’s law allows all things.” But not all things will help you. Someone says, “God’s law allows all things.” But not all things build up people. Don’t look-for what is good for you. Do what is good for your neighbor.

You can buy meat from anyone selling and don’t worry about that. The earth and everything on earth belongs to the Lord. If an unbeliever invites you to eat with him, you can go and eat their food and don’t worry about that. But if someone tells you, “This food was sacrificed to an idol,” then don’t eat that. Eating that is not wrong, but you don’t want to hurt the person telling you. Another person’s conscience should not tell me what to do. If I eat and thank God, then how can people say I am wrong?

Happen you eat or drink, or anything you do, give glory to God. Don’t insult Jewish people or Greek people or God’s church. The same, I try to serve everyone in everything I do. I don’t do what is best for me. I do what is best for many people, so they can become saved. You follow my example, the same as I follow Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 1.

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

A man sick with LEPROSY came to Jesus, kneeled, and begged Jesus, “If You want, You can make me clean.”

Jesus felt sorry for him, and Jesus touched the men and said, “I want-to help you. You become clean!” Quickly the sickness disappeared and the man became healed and clean.

Then Jesus sent-away the man and strictly commanded him, “Don’t tell anyone about this, but first go to the Jewish priest and let him examine you. Then you offer that gift Moses commanded to show proof to all the people that you are now healed.”

But the man went away and he talked much about Jesus healing him and the news spread. Then Jesus couldn’t enter any towns. Jesus stayed in lonely places, but the people came from many towns to find Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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