***Introit (Psalm 69)***

P: Love for Your house controls me.

C: People who hate You also hate me.

P: Save me from sinking into trouble.

**C: Save me from my enemies. Save me from deep water.**

P: Don’t let the flood destroy me. Don’t let deep water swallow me.

**C: Don’t let the grave swallow me.**

P: Lord, answer me, because Your love is good.

**C: You have great mercy. Come and save me.**

**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, You always show mercy. That is Your glory. When people stray from You, show mercy to them. Give them again sorry hearts and strong faith. Then they can always believe Your word. 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 Exodus chapter 20.

 God spoke all these words:

 “I am the Lord your God. I brought you out-of the country Egypt. I brought you out-of slavery.

 You will have no other gods, only Me.

 You will not make any idols for yourself. You will not make a statue that looks the same-as anything in the sky, or on earth, or in the water. You will not bow-down to idols, and you will not serve them. Because I am the Lord your God, and I am a jealous God. Happen I punish the sinful people, that punishment continues for three and four generations of people hating Me. But I show love to thousands of people loving Me and obeying My commandments.

 You will not use the name of the Lord your God in a wrong way. If you use His name wrong, you are guilty and the Lord will punish you.

 Remember the worship day and keep it holy. For six days you will work and do everything. The seventh day is for worshiping the Lord your God. You will not work that day. Not you, not your son, not your daughter, not your man or woman servants, not your animals, and not the visitors in your house. Because in six days the Lord God made the heavens and the earth and the sea and everything in them, and He rested on the seventh day. That is why the Lord blessed the worship day and made that holy.

 Honor your father and your mother. Then you will live a long time in the country the Lord your God gives you.

 You will not murder.

 You will not do sex sins.

 You will not steal.

 You will not tell false stories against your neighbor.

 You will not jealously want your neighbor's house. You will not jealously want your neighbor’s wife, or his man or woman servants, or his cow, or donkey, or anything belonging to your neighbor.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 1.

 Unbelievers who are going to hell think the message about the cross is foolish. But for us, God is saving us, the message of the cross is God’s power. The Bible says, “I will destroy wise people’s wisdom. People who think they understand, I will reject their understanding.” Where is the wise man? Where is the law teacher? Where is the person who argues?

 God shows the world’s wisdom is foolish. The world can’t use its wisdom to know God. God’s wisdom decided that. God is happy to use a foolish message to save people who believe.

 The Jews want proof and the Greeks look-for wisdom. But we preach that Christ died on a cross. The Jews reject that, and Greek people think that is foolish.

 But for all people God calls, no-matter they are Jews or Greeks, Christ is God’s power and God’s wisdom. God’s foolishness is more wise than people. God’s weakness is stronger than people.

 Think about when God called you to become Christian. The world said not many of you were wise. Not many of you were powerful, or from powerful families. But God chose foolish things in this world. That shames wise people. God chose weak things in this world. That shames strong people. God chose simple things, and things people hate, and things that seem worthless. Then He can show the important things in this world mean nothing. Then no one can boast to God.

 But God made you alive in Christ Jesus. Jesus is God’s wisdom for us, and righteousness, and making us holy, and saving us. Then the Bible verse is true, “If someone boasts, let him boast about the Lord.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two Gospel lessons to choose from; a longer reading from John 2, and a shorter reading from John 2. Choose one.*

*The longer reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 2.

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

 The Jewish Passover time was near. Now Jesus went to the city Jerusalem. In the temple He saw people selling cows, sheep, and birds, and the money-changing people sat there.

 Jesus made a whip from ropes and chased the people out-of the temple, also the sheep and cows. He poured-out the coins of the money-changing people and turned-over their tables. Jesus told the people selling birds, “Take-away these birds! Don't make My Father’s house a place for business.”

 Jesus’ disciples remembered the Bible says, “Love for Your house will fill Me.”

 Then the Jewish leaders told Jesus, “Give us proof You have authority to do this!”

 Jesus said, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it again.”

 The Jews said, “People worked forty-six years to build this temple, and you will build it in three days?” But Jesus was talking about His own body. After Jesus raised alive from the dead, His disciples remembered what Jesus said, and they believed the Bible and what Jesus said.

 Jesus was in Jerusalem for the Passover. Many people saw the wonderful works He did and they believed in Him. But Jesus didn’t trust them. He knew all people and He didn’t need anyone to tell Him about people. Jesus knew that people were sinners.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The shorter reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 2.

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

 The Jewish Passover time was near. Now Jesus went to the city Jerusalem. In the temple He saw people selling cows, sheep, and birds, and the money-changing people sat there.

 Jesus made a whip from ropes and chased the people out-of the temple, also the sheep and cows. He poured-out the coins of the money-changing people and turned-over their tables. Jesus told the people selling birds, “Take-away these birds! Don't make My Father’s house a place for business.”

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This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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