***Introit (Psalm 147)***

P: Lord, Your hand

**C: Takes-care of every living thing.**

P: Sing and thank the Lord!

C: Make music to thank Him.

P: He puts clouds in the sky and sends rain for the earth.

**C: He makes grass grow on the hills.**

P: He gives food for animals.

**C: He gives food for young birds that cry-out.**

P: Strong horses don’t make God happy.

**C: Men running fast don’t make Him happy.**

P: God is happy with people who honor Him.

**C: He is happy with people trusting His faithful love.**

**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: Heavenly Father, we don’t deserve Your goodness. But You continue to take care of all our needs for body and soul. Give us Your Holy Spirit. Then we will see all the good things You give us. We will thank You for your blessings. And we will happily serve and obey You. 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 Jeremiah chapter 23.

The Lord announces, “Bad news for those shepherds who destroy and scatter My sheep!” The Lord, the God of Israel, said this about the shepherds taking-care of God’s people. “You shepherds made My sheep run away. You didn’t take-care of My people. Because you did evil work, I will punish you. I sent My people into other countries, but then I Myself will gather together My people from all the countries. I will bring them home. Their numbers will increase, and their group will become larger. I will give them shepherds who will take-care of them. My people will no longer be afraid, and none will become lost.”

The Lord announces, “The day is coming near, I will put a righteous man on King DAVID’s throne. He will reign as king with wisdom and he will do what is right for the country. While he rules, he will save JUDAH, and ISRAEL will be safe. His name will be ‘The Lord is our Righteousness.’”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Ephesians chapter 2.

Remember, you were non-Jews. The Jews name themselves “circumcised” and they named you “not circumcised.” But that circumcision is only what people do to the body. Remember you were separated from Christ. You didn’t belong to the people of ISRAEL. You didn’t have God’s promises. You had no hope and you lived in the world without God.

You were far away from God. But now Jesus Christ, through His blood, brought you close to God. Christ Himself is our peace. In the past, Jews and non-Jews were enemies. The law of commandments and rules was a wall that separated people. But now Jesus in His body destroyed that separation. He made the two groups, Jews and non-Jews, become one group. For the two groups, Christ made peace.

The division and hatred between Jews and non-Jews, Christ took that into His body and killed that on the cross. Jesus’ death on the cross made Jews and non-Jews become one group, and He brought them all to God. Jesus preached peace to both Jews and non-Jews. Through Jesus, we all come to the Father through the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, you are not strangers and foreigners. You belong with God’s people, you belong in God’s house. Christ Jesus is the cornerstone. Jesus built the apostles and prophets the same-as a foundation on Jesus. Now Jesus builds you on the apostles and prophets. In Jesus Christ, the whole building stays together and becomes a holy temple in the Lord. Now Jesus builds all of you together for the Holy Spirit to live in you.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 6.

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

The apostles came back from their traveling and went to Jesus. They told Him all the things they did and taught. Many people were coming and going, so that the disciples did not have time to eat. Jesus told the twelve disciples, “Come with Me. We will go to a quiet place and rest.”

So the disciples left in a boat and went to a private place. But many people saw them leave. People from many towns ran ahead and arrived first. When the boat arrived, a large crowd of people was there waiting for Jesus. Jesus saw all the people and felt sorry for them. They were like sheep not having a shepherd. So Jesus began teaching the people many things.

Now it was becoming late. Jesus’ disciples came to Him and said, “There is nothing around here and it is late. Send away the people so they can go out to the country and the villages and buy food.”

Jesus answered and said, “You give them something to eat!”

They answered, “We should go and use 200 days’ wages to buy enough bread for them to eat?”

Jesus asked, “How many loaves-of-bread do you have? Go look!”

The disciples found out and told Him, “Five loaves-of-bread and two fish.”

Jesus told everyone to sit down in groups on the grass. The people sat in groups of 100 and groups of 50. Jesus took the five loaves-of-bread and two fish. He looked up to heaven, blessed the food, broke the bread and continued giving the food to the disciples for them to give to the people. Jesus also took the two fish and divided them for the people.

Everyone ate and was satisfied. The disciples picked up twelve full baskets of leftover bread and fish. There were 5,000 men who ate the bread.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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