***Introit (Psalm 78)***

P: God’s righteous heart took-care of His people.

C: His skilled hand led His people.

P: God commanded the sky,

**C: He opened the doors of heaven.**

P: He sent manna for His people.

**C: He gave them bread from heaven.**

P: People ate bread from angels.

**C: God gave people all the food they needed.**

**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: Father full of mercy, You gave Your Son Jesus for us. Jesus is the bread of life from heaven. Give us true faith in Jesus. Then in Your Word, Baptism, and the Lord’s Supper, Jesus is true food for us. He will feed us and give eternal life. 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 Exodus chapter 16.

 In the desert, all the people of Israel complained against MOSES and AARON. The Israelite people said, “We wish the Lord killed us in Egypt! In Egypt, we sat and ate meat and bread and became full. But now you brought us here in the desert. We have no food. You will kill us here!”

 The Lord told MOSES, “I will send bread from heaven for you. The people should go out every day and gather enough bread for that day. I will test the people and see if they follow My law. On the sixth day, they will have double the amount of bread.”

 MOSES and AARON told the Israelite people, “In the evening, you will know the Lord led you out of Egypt. In the morning, you will see the Lord’s glory. He heard you complain against Him. You complain against us? No, you complained against the Lord.”

 MOSES said, “AARON and I are not important. The Lord will give you much meat in the evening and much bread in the morning, because He heard you complain against Him. You are complaining against the Lord, not against us.”

 MOSES told AARON, “Tell all the Israelite people, ‘Come here in front of the Lord. He heard you complain.’” AARON spoke to the people. They looked out to the desert and saw the Lord’s glory in a cloud.

 The Lord told MOSES, “I heard the people complaining. Tell them, ‘In the evening, you will eat meat. In the morning, you will eat bread and become full. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

 That evening, QUAIL birds came and filled the camp. In the morning, there was DEW (water) around the camp. When the DEW was gone, there on the ground was something the same-as FROST. The Israelite people saw it and asked each other, “What is it?” They didn’t know what that was. Moses told them, “This is bread, the Lord gave this for you to eat.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Ephesians chapter 4.

 PAUL wrote, I am now a prisoner for the Lord. I encourage you, live and show that God called you. You should live humble and gentle. Continue patient with each other in love. You have unity in the Holy Spirit. Try to keep that unity, how? Keep peace with each other. The church is one body and has one Spirit. The same, God called you to one hope, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father over all. God is over all, through all, and in all.

 For each one of us, God gave grace agreeing with Christ’s gift for us. That is why the Bible says, “When He went up to heaven, He led many captives, and He gave gifts to people.”

 When the Bible says, “He (Jesus) went up,” that also means He first went down under the earth. Jesus descended (went down), and He also ascended (went up) far above all the heavens. That way, He will rule all things.

 Christ gave apostles, prophets, people to preach good news, pastors and teachers. All of those are Christ’s gifts. Christ gave these people so they can prepare all of God’s people for serving.

 Christ’s gifts and our service build up Christ’s body, the church. Then all of us will become united in faith, we will become united in knowledge about God’s Son, and we will become mature and have full life in Christ.

 When we grow and become mature, we will not be babies. We won’t follow every new teaching. False teachers try to invent new teachings, but they will not fool us. We won’t follow false teachings, but we will speak the truth in love. In every way, we will grow up in Christ. He leads His church. Christ is the Head, and the church is His body. He holds us together and each member does their right work. Then the church grows and builds in love.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 6.

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

 The next day, the crowd of people on the other side of the lake looked for Jesus. They knew Jesus and His disciples came in one boat. They saw the disciples leave and Jesus stayed. This was the same place where Jesus fed many people. Now more boats came to that place. All the people saw that Jesus and His disciples weren’t there. Then they got into the boats and went to the city CAPERNAUM to look for Jesus. They found Jesus and asked Him, “Teacher, when did You arrive here?”

 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, you don’t look for Me because I did miracles. You look for Me because you ate bread and became full. Don’t work for food that spoils. You should work for food that gives eternal life. The Son of Man will give you that food. God the Father shows the Son of Man can do that.”

 The people asked Jesus, “How can we do the works God wants?”

 Jesus answered, “This is God’s work, for you to believe in Me. God sent Me.”

 The people asked Jesus, “What proof will You give us? When we see the proof, then we can believe in You. What work will You do? Long ago, our fathers ate MANNA in the desert. The Bible says, ‘He gave the people bread from heaven to eat.’”

 Jesus told them, “I tell you the truth. MOSES didn’t give you bread from heaven. My Father gives you true bread from heaven. The bread of God is the One (Jesus) who comes from heaven and gives life to the world.”

 The people said, “Always give us this bread.”

 Jesus announced, “I am the bread of life. A person who comes to Me will never hunger. A person who believes in Me will never thirst.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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