***Introit (Psalm 111)***

P: The fear of the Lord begins wisdom. Everyone who fears the Lord has good understanding.

**C: Praise Him forever!**

P: Praise the Lord! I thank the Lord with all my heart.

**C: With all God’s people, I thank Him.**

P: The Lord does great and wonderful work!

**C: People love to study His works.**

P: His work is wonderful and glorious.

**C: His righteousness continues forever.**

P: He did wonderful works for us to remember.

**C: The Lord is full of grace and mercy.**

P: The Lord gives food for people honoring Him.

**C: He remembers His promises forever.**

P: He saved His people and His promises continue forever.

**C: His name is holy and wonderful!**

**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: Almighty God, knowing You means knowing eternal life. Make us know Your Son, Jesus, that He is the way, the truth and the life. Then we can always follow Him to 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.

*There are two Old Testament readings to choose from, Proverbs 9 or Joshua 24. Choose one.*

*The first O.T. lesson.*

The Old Testament lesson is from Proverbs chapter 9.

 (Wisdom is described as a woman.) Wisdom built her house and set-up seven pillars. Wisdom prepared meat and wine and made ready the table. Wisdom sent the women servants and she announced from the highest place in the city: “Who doesn’t-know much? Come, come.” To the person who doesn’t understand, wisdom says, “Come and eat my bread, and drink the wine I prepared. Give-up your foolishness. Live! Follow the way that leads to understanding.”

 If you warn a mocker, the mocker will abuse you. If you warn a wicked man, the wicked man will hurt you. Don’t tell a mocker he did wrong, because he will hate you. If you tell a wise man he did wrong, he will love you.

 Teach a wise man, and he will become more wise. Teach a righteous man, and he will learn more. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Knowing the Holy One gives you understanding.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The second O.T. lesson.*

The Old Testament lesson is from Joshua chapter 24.

 JOSHUA gathered all the families of Israel to the city named SHECHEM. He called together the elders, leaders, judges and officers in Israel. They all came in-front-of God.

 Joshua told all the people, “The Lord, the God of Israel said this. ‘Long ago, your fathers were named TERAH, ABRAHAM, AND NAHOR. They lived far away, past the EUPHRATES RIVER, and they worshiped other gods.’”

 “Now you should fear the Lord and serve Him true and faithful. Your fathers served other gods in other countries. Now you throw-out those gods. Serve the Lord! If you think serving the Lord is bad, then today you must choose a god you will serve. Choose to serve the gods in the land past the EUPHRATES RIVER, or the AMORITE gods in this land. But for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

 The people said, “We don’t want to leave the Lord! We don’t want to serve other gods! The Lord our God led us and our fathers out of Egypt and slavery. He did great works and we saw His work. He protected us all the way, and He protected us from all the people and lands we traveled through. The Lord pushed-out all the people and the AMORITE people here in the land. We will also serve the Lord, because He is our God.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Ephesians chapter 5.

 Don’t let anyone fool you with foolish words. Because people do bad sins, God is angry against people who don’t obey Him.

 You should not join with those people. In the past, you lived in the dark. But now you are light in the Lord. Live as God’s children in the light. The light brings all good things and righteousness and truth. Try to learn what pleases the Lord.

 Don’t join in doing worthless sinful things. Instead, show they are sinful. It is shameful to talk about the sins people do in secret. But when the light shines, people see everything. The light shows everything. That is why the Bible says, “Sleeper, wake up! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

 Be careful how you live. Don’t live same-as ignorant people, but live same-as wise people. Use time wisely, because the world today is evil. Don’t be foolish, but understand what the Lord wants. Don’t get-drunk with wine, because that leads to sinful behavior. Instead, become full with the Spirit. Speak to one-another with psalms and songs and spiritual songs. Sing and praise the Lord in your heart. Always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. And submit to each other because you honor Christ.

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.

 Jesus said, “I am the living bread and I came-down from heaven. If anyone eats this bread, that person will live forever. I will give bread for the life of the world, and that bread is My body.”

 Then the Jewish people argued with one-another. “How can Jesus give us His body for food?”

 Jesus answered, “I tell you honestly, you must eat the body and drink the blood of the Son of Man, or you will not have life. If you truly eat My body and drink My blood you will have eternal life, and I will raise you alive on the last day. My body is true food and My blood is true drink.”

 “If you eat My body and drink My blood, you live with Me and I live with you. The living Father sent Me. I live because the Father is with Me. The same, if you eat My body and drink My blood, you will live because of Me. This is the bread that came-down from heaven. Your fathers ate manna bread in the desert and they died. You come eat this bread and you will live forever.”

 Jesus said these things in the Jewish church in the city named CAPERNAUM. Many of His disciples heard Jesus say these things. They said, “That is a hard teaching. Who can believe that?”

 Jesus knew the disciples were complaining. He said, “You don’t-want to believe that teaching? What if you saw the Son of Man go up again into heaven? The Holy Spirit gives you life; the flesh gives no help. The words I spoke to you are from the Holy Spirit and give you life. But some of you don’t believe.”

 From the beginning, Jesus knew who will not believe and He knew that one person will betray Him. Jesus said, “That is why I told you, no one can come to Me unless the Father brings him.”

 When the people heard this, many people stopped following Jesus. Then Jesus asked the twelve disciples, “You want to leave also?”

 Peter answered, “Lord, where will we go? You have the words that give eternal life. We believe and know You are the Holy One from God.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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