***Introit (Psalm 28)***

P: The Lord is strength for His people.

C: For people He chooses, He is the safe strong place.

P: Lord, I call to You. You are my Rock. Don’t ignore me.

**C: If You don’t answer me, then I become the same-as people in hell.**

P: Attend to my cries for mercy, when I cry to You for help.

**C: Attend to me when I pray in Your holy temple.**

P: Bless the Lord!

**C: Because He attended my cries for mercy.**

P: The Lord is my strength and protection. My heart trusts Him, and He helps me.

**C: My heart rejoices and I sing thanks to Him.**

**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, we are Your humble servants. In Your mercy, attend to our prayers. Let us pray agreeing with Your wants. Then answer and give-us agreeing with Your mercy. 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 Isaiah chapter 35.

 For those people with worried hearts, you tell them, “Become strong! Not afraid! Look! Your God will come to do His work and destroy your enemies. He will come to save you.”

 Then the blind eyes He will open, and the deaf ears He will open. The lame man will jump same-as a deer, and the mute will sing with happiness. Then water will pour into the desert, and rivers will give water in the desert. The hot, dry ground will become a pool of water with springs-of-water for the thirsty land. The place where wolves lie-down, the dry grass will become plants growing in water.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from James chapter 2.

 Dear Christian friends, you have faith in our Lord of glory, Jesus Christ, therefore don’t favor some people more than other people. Suppose a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes to church, and a poor man with old clothes comes to church. You attend to the man with gold rings and fine clothes saying, “Please sit in this good seat,” but you tell the poor man, “Stand there” or “Sit by my feet.” Then you are playing favorites and you become judges with bad thoughts.

 Listen, dear friends, truly God chose people that are poor in the world. He makes them rich in faith and He will give them His kingdom, the same-as He promised for people who love Him. But you are not honoring the poor man. Truly, the rich people bother you and take you into court. God gives you a good name, but they insult that name.

 God’s holy law in the Bible says, “Love other people same-as you love yourself.” If you obey this law, then you are doing correct. But if you favor one person more than another person, then you are sinning. God’s law shows you are guilty sinners. Suppose a person can obey all God’s law, but that person breaks only one command. Then that person is guilty of breaking all the law.

 Dear Christian friends, what happens if we say we have faith, but we don’t do good works? Can our faith save us? If a brother or sister doesn’t have enough clothes or doesn’t have enough food, and we tell him, “Go with peace, be-warm and full,” but we don’t give clothes or food, how is that good?

 If faith doesn’t do good works, that faith is alone and dead. Someone will say, “You have faith and I do good works.” But you show your faith separate from your good works, and my good works will show I have faith.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the Gospel lesson; a shorter reading from Mark 7 and a longer reading from Mark 7. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 7.

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

 Jesus left the city named TYRE and He traveled through the city SIDON to the Sea of GALILEE. And He arrived at a place named DECAPOLIS. The people brought one man to Jesus. That man was deaf and couldn’t speak. And the people begged Jesus to touch the man.

 Jesus led the deaf man alone, away from the group of people. Jesus put His fingers into the deaf man’s ears. And Jesus spit and touched the man’s tongue. Then Jesus looked-up to heaven and breathed and said to the man, “EPHPHATHA.” This means “Become open.” And his ears opened and quickly his tongue became free and he spoke clearly.

 And Jesus ordered the people, “Tell no one.” But no-matter Jesus often ordered them not to tell, the people announced that wonderful work more and more. And all the people were-surprised. And they said, “Jesus does all things good. He makes the deaf hear, and people who can’t speak, now can speak.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The longer reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 7.

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

 Jesus left that place and went to the area named TYRE and SIDON. Jesus stayed in a house and He didn’t want anyone to know He was there. But people knew Jesus was there. A woman had a little daughter with a demon in her. The woman quickly came to Jesus and bowed in-front-of Him. The woman was a non-Jew, a CANAANITE woman. She begged Jesus to throw-out the demon.

 Jesus said, “I should feed the children first. It is not right to take bread for the children and give that to the dogs.”

 The woman said, “Yes, Lord. But the dogs under the table eat the CRUMBS from the children.”

 Jesus told her, “Because you say that, you can go. The demon is gone, your daughter is healed.” The woman went home and saw the child laying in bed and the demon was gone.

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This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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