***Introit (Psalm 89)***

P: With all my heart, I will thank the Lord.

C: I will tell about all Your wonderful works.

P: I will sing forever about the Lord’s continuing love.

C: My hands will announce Your faithfulness for all people.

P: The Lord will show love forever.

C: In the sky, You show Your faithfulness.

P: The Lord said He made a promise for His chosen One.

**C: He made a promise for His servant David.**

P: The Lord will bless His children forever.

**C: He will make His throne great for all generations.**

**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 Jesus Christ, You are our great High Priest. Make us clean with the power of Your blood that saves us. Then we will be clean and have peace, and we can worship Your holy name. Jesus, You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (copy) Amen.

The Old Testament lesson is from Deuteronomy chapter 6.

MOSES said, The Lord your God told me to teach you these commandments, laws and rules. Then when you live in the land, you can obey the commandments and laws. Then you will keep the land and you will honor the Lord your God. You, your children, and your grandchildren will all obey these laws and commandments all your life. Then your life will be long. Israel, attend! Do what the law says! Then your life will be good and you will become a strong nation. The Lord, the God for your fathers, He gave you those promises for a land full of good things.

 ISRAEL, attend! The Lord our God, the Lord is one God. You will love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength. These commandments will stay in your heart. You will teach these commands to your children. When your family sits at home, you will discuss these commandments. When you walk on the road, when you go to bed, when you get up, always you will discuss the commandments. You will write the commandments and tie them on your hand and on your forehead. You will write the commandments on the doors of your house and on your gates.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the New Testament lesson, a long reading from Hebrews 9 and a short reading from Hebrews 9. Choose one.*

*This is the long reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from Hebrews chapter 9.

 Christ came as High Priest to give us good things. Then He entered the great and more perfect tent. Not a tent people made in this world. He entered heaven, that holy place, to stay there. A priest enters the temple after sacrificing goats and cows. But Jesus sacrificed Himself, His blood, and He won eternal salvation. Blood from goats and bulls and ASHES from a cow make sinners clean from sin. Then much more Christ’s blood makes our hearts clean from our worthless works. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus made His perfect sacrifice to God and He makes us clean to serve the living God.

 Now Jesus is the one who gives us God’s promises. Then when God calls people, Jesus gives them the promised eternal life. Jesus’ death saves them from their law-breaking. When someone writes a WILL to give an inheritance, that person must die for the WILL to work. A WILL happens only when someone dies. While the person lives, a WILL does nothing. That is why the Law also began with blood from sacrifices. MOSES told the people all of the commandments, then he sacrificed cows and goats. He took that blood and water and sprinkled the Law book and the people. Moses said, “This is the blood of God’s Law that He commanded for you.” The same way, MOSES sprinkled blood on the tent and all the worship furniture. The Law said to use blood to make almost everything clean from sin. If there is no sacrifice and blood, there is no forgiveness for sins.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*This is the short reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from Hebrews chapter 9.

 Christ came as High Priest to give us good things. Then He entered the great and more perfect tent. Not a tent people made in this world. He entered heaven, that holy place, to stay there. A priest enters the temple after sacrificing goats and cows. But Jesus sacrificed Himself, His blood, and He won eternal salvation. Blood from goats and bulls and ASHES from a cow make sinners clean from sin. Then much more Christ’s blood makes our hearts clean from our worthless works. Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus made His perfect sacrifice to God and He makes us clean to serve the living God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 12.

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

 A law teacher came and heard Jesus and the Jewish leaders talking. The law teacher saw that Jesus gave good answers. So he asked Jesus, “Which commandment is most important?”

 Jesus answered, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Israel, attend! The Lord our God, the Lord is one God. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second commandment is this: ‘Love your neighbor the same-as you love yourself.’ No commandment is more important than these.”

 The man said, “Teacher, You are right! God is one, and there is no other god. Love Him with all your heart, all your understanding, all your strength, that is important more than all offerings and sacrifices.”

 Jesus saw that this man gave a wise answer, and Jesus said, “You are near God’s kingdom.” After that, no one was brave enough to question Jesus.

 Jesus was teaching in the temple. He said, “The law teachers say the Christ is the son of DAVID. How? The Holy Spirit made DAVID say this: ‘The Lord said to my Lord, sit near My right hand, until I give You control over Your enemies.’ DAVID named Him Lord. Then how is the Christ the Son of DAVID?” The large crowd loved listening to Jesus.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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