***Introit (Psalm 132)***

P: Lord, give righteousness the same-as clothes for Your priests.

**C: Let Your holy people shout with joy.**

P: The Lord chose His holy city,

**C: He wants to live there.**

P: The Lord says, “This is My resting place forever.”

**C: “I will live here. I desire that.”**

P: The Lord will give everything the city needs.

**C: He will satisfy the poor people with bread.**

P: He will give salvation the same-as clothes for the priests.

**C: The holy people will shout with joy.**

P: God will make a ruler come from David.

**C: He prepared a light for the leader He chose.**

P: God will cover His enemies with shame.

**C: But God will put a bright crown on His leader.**

**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 of mercy, You gave Your only Son Jesus same-as a sacrifice to forgive sinners. Give us Your grace. Then because of Jesus’ work to save us, we will have His gifts and salvation, and we will thank You and follow Jesus every day. We pray through 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 Hosea chapter 2.

 God said, “Look! I will encourage Israel, I will take her into the desert and speak kind words to her. I will give her vineyards. The valley of trouble will become a door of hope. Israel will sing the same-as long ago when she was young, the same-as when she came here from Egypt.”

 The Lord announces, “On that day, you will name Me, ‘My Husband.’ You will no longer name Me, ‘My BAAL.’ Because I will take-away the idol name BAAL. No one will say the idol names again. I will make an agreement with the WILD animals, the birds, and all the animals on the ground. I will do that for Israel. I will stop all war and fighting with the bow and sword in the land. I will make everyone lie down in safety.”

 “I will make you married to Me forever. I will make you married in righteousness, right judgment, continuing love, and mercy. I will marry you in faithfulness. Then you will know the Lord.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Acts chapter 2.

 Then PETER stood-up with the eleven apostles and spoke to all the people. “All people in ISRAEL should know this. Jesus, the one you crucified, God made Him Lord and Christ.”

 The people heard that and felt very guilty. They asked PETER and the other apostles, “Brothers, what must we do?”

 PETER answered, “Everyone repent and get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and for your children, and to people in other nations, to every person our Lord calls.”

 And PETER continued to teach and encourage them much. He said, “Become saved from these evil people.” Then the people that believed PETER’s message got baptized. On that day God added about 3,000 people to the church.

 The believers truly followed the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and praying together. The apostles did many wonderful works, and everyone was amazed. All the believers were together and shared everything. They sold the things they owned and then divided the money and gave to anyone who needed it. Every day, the believers met together in the temple. They ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God and all the people liked them. Every day the Lord saved more people and made the church grow.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the Gospel lesson, a shorter reading from Mark 2 and a longer reading from Mark 2. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 2.

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

 John’s disciples and the Pharisees stopped eating as part of their worship. People went to Jesus and asked, “John’s disciples and the Pharisees stopped eating. But Your disciples are eating. Why?”

 Jesus said, “When the groom comes for the wedding, will his friends stop eating? No! When the groom is with them, they eat. They will not stop. But someone will take-away the groom from them. Then they will stop eating. No one sews new cloth on old clothes. If you do that, then the new cloth will rip the old cloth and the hole will become worse. No one puts new wine in old wine bags. The new wine will break the old bags and that destroys both the wine and the bags. Instead, you put new wine into new bags.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The longer reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 2.

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

 Jesus went again to the sea. The crowd of people came to Jesus and He was teaching them. Jesus was walking and He saw a man named LEVI, the son of ALPHAEUS, sitting in a place to collect taxes. Jesus told LEVI, “Follow Me.” LEVI stood up and followed Jesus.

 Later, Jesus was eating in LEVI’s house. Many tax collectors and sinners ate with Jesus and His disciples. Many people followed Jesus. Some of the Law teachers who were Pharisees saw Jesus eating with sinners and tax collectors. They asked Jesus’ disciples, “Why does Jesus eat with tax collectors and sinner?”

 Jesus heard that and He said, “Healthy people don’t need a doctor. Sick people need a doctor. I didn’t come for righteous people. I came to call sinners.”

 John’s disciples and the Pharisees stopped eating as part of their worship. People went to Jesus and asked, “John’s disciples and the Pharisees stopped eating. But Your disciples are eating. Why?”

 Jesus said, “When the groom comes for the wedding, will his friends stop eating? No! When the groom is with them, they eat. They will not stop. But someone will take-away the groom from them. Then they will stop eating. No one sews new cloth on old clothes. If you do that, then the new cloth will rip the old cloth and the hole will become worse. No one puts new wine in old wine bags. The new wine will break the old bags and that destroys both the wine and the bags. Instead, you put new wine into new bags.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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