***Introit (Psalm 28)***

P: Bless the Lord!

**C: He heard me cry-out for mercy.**

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

**C: My heart is happy. I sing thanks to Him.**

P: The Lord is strength for His people.

**C: He saves His chosen people.**

P: Lord, save Your people! Bless Your chosen people!

**C: You are their shepherd. Take-care of them forever.**

**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 and eternal God, Your Son Jesus defeated Satan. We were slaves to sin, but Jesus made us free. When Satan attacks us, help us stand strong. Make us always able to do what You want. 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 Genesis chapter 3.

 The man and woman heard the Lord God walking in the garden during the cool time of the day. The man and his wife hid from the Lord God behind the trees in the garden.

 The Lord God called the man and said, “Where are you?”

 The man answered, “I heard You in the garden. I was-afraid because I was naked, and I hid.”

 And God asked, “Who said you were naked? I told you not to eat from that one tree. Did you eat?”

 The man said, “The woman You gave to stay with me, she gave me from the tree and I ate.”

 The Lord God said to the woman, “What did you do?”

 The woman answered, “The snake deceived (fooled) me and I ate.”

 Then the Lord God said to the snake, “Because you did this, curse you more than all farm animals and wild animals. You must crawl on your stomach and eat dirt all your life. I will make you and the woman hate each other, and your descendants and her Descendant will be enemies. He will crush your head, and you will hurt His foot.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 2 Corinthians chapter 4.

 The Bible says, “I spoke because I believed.” We have the same faith, and now we speak because we believe. We know that God raised Jesus from death, and God will raise us also with Jesus. He will bring us and you together with Him. All this is for your good. God’s grace will spread to more and more people, and then the people will be filled with thanks. That gives glory to God.

 That is the reason we don’t give up. Our bodies are slowly dying, but every-day God is making our soul new. This small and short time trouble we suffer now is preparing us for a wonderful and eternal glory in heaven. That glory is much greater than all our troubles.

 We don’t look at the things that people can see, but we look at the things that we can’t see. The things our eyes see continue only a short time, but the things we can’t see continue forever.

 We know that if this tent (body) that is our house is torn down, then we have a building from God. Human hands didn’t make that house. That house is eternal in heaven.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 3.

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

 Then Jesus went home. Again a large group came and Jesus and His disciples had no time to eat. Happened that Jesus’ family heard about that, His family went to get Jesus to come home, because they said Jesus was-crazy.

 Some law teachers came from the city Jerusalem and said, “Jesus has BEELZEBUL the devil in Him.” And they said, “The ruler of demons helps Jesus to throw evil spirits out-of people.”

 Now Jesus called them together and asked, “How can Satan throw out evil spirits? If a nation divides into two groups and they fight one-another, that nation will collapse. If a family divides into two groups and they fight one-another, that family will collapse.”

 And now if Satan fights against himself, his kingdom will not stay. His kingdom will get destroyed.

 No one can go into a strong man’s house and steal his things unless first he goes and ties-up the strong man. Then he can steal from his house. I tell you honestly, God will forgive a person all his sins and all the bad things he says. But anyone that speaks bad things against the Holy Spirit will never get forgiveness, because he did an eternal sin.” Jesus said this because some people said Jesus had an evil spirit in Him.

 Jesus’ mother and brothers came. They stood outside the house and sent someone to ask Jesus to come-out. The group of people sitting around Jesus told Jesus that His mother and brothers were-outside and wanted Him.

 Jesus answered, “Who is My mother? Who are My brothers?” Jesus looked-around at the people sitting in the house and said, “Here are My mother and brothers. Anyone that does what God wants, that person is My brother and sister and mother.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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