***Introit (1 Samuel 2 and Luke 1)***

P: My soul praises the Lord.

C: My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.

P: I speak bravely against my enemies.

C: Because I rejoice that You save me.

P: No one is holy the same-as the Lord.

C: No one is the same-as God. No one is strong the same-as Him.

P: The woman with no children will have seven children.

C: But the woman with many children will become weak.

P: The Lord kills and He gives life.

C: The Lord puts people in the grave and He raises them alive.

P: The Lord makes people poor and rich.

C: He makes people humble and He lifts them up.

**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, show Your power and come. Help us with Your wonderful strength and grace. Then our sins will not burden us, but Your grace and mercy will free us. 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 Micah chapter 5.

BETHLEHEM EPHRATHA, no-matter you are only a small town among the many towns in JUDAH. I will send someone to rule Israel. That ruler will come from Bethlehem. He truly comes from long ago, from eternity past. Therefore, God will leave His people until the woman gives-birth. Then all His people will come again to Israel. He will have the Lord’s strength to shepherd His people. He will have the glory of the name of the Lord his God. His people will live safe, because he will be great in all the earth. He will be peace for them. When our enemy ASSYRIA comes into our land and attacks our homes, then we will send seven shepherds and eight princes to fight our enemy.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Hebrews chapter 10.

When Jesus came into the world, He said, “God, You didn’t want sacrifice and offering. But You prepared a body for Me. Burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin don’t please You. Then I said, ‘Look! I came to do what You want, O God. The book says what I will do.’”

First Jesus said, “God, You didn’t want sacrifice and offering. Burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin don’t please You.” The law commands people to give those sacrifices. Then Jesus said, “Look! I came to do what You want, O God.”

Jesus takes-away the first thing – the offerings and sacrifices. Then Jesus did the second thing – Jesus did what God wants. Jesus Christ offered His body once for all people to make us holy.

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 Luke 1 and a longer reading from Luke 1. Choose one.*

*This is the longer reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 1.

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

MARY hurried to the hill country in JUDAH. She went to a certain city, to ZECHARIAH’S house, and she greeted ELIZABETH. ELIZABETH heard MARY’S greeting, then the baby, JOHN, jumped in her womb. The Holy Spirit filled ELIZABETH, and she said with a loud voice, “MARY, God blessed you much! And blessed is the child you will give birth to! How can it happen that my Lord’s mother comes to visit me? When you greeted me, the baby inside me jumped with joy. God blesses you, because when the Lord told you what will happen, you believed.”

MARY said, “My soul praises the Lord. My spirit rejoices in God, my Savior. Because He looked with favor on His servant. From now-on all generations will call me blessed. The Almighty God did wonderful things for me, and His name is holy. In every generation, God shows mercy to people who honor Him. He did mighty things. He scattered the proud people. The powerful people on their thrones, God threw down, but the humble people He lifted up. God filled hungry people with good things. But the rich people, He sent away empty. God helped His servant ISRAEL, because He remembered His promise of mercy. God made that promise for our fathers, for ABRAHAM and his children forever.”

MARY stayed with ELIZABETH about three months. Then she went home.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*This is the shorter reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 1.

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

MARY hurried to the hill country in JUDAH. She went to a certain city, to ZECHARIAH’S house, and she greeted ELIZABETH. ELIZABETH heard MARY’S greeting, then the baby, JOHN, jumped in her womb. The Holy Spirit filled ELIZABETH, and she said with a loud voice, “MARY, God blessed you much! And blessed is the child you will give birth to! How can it happen that my Lord’s mother comes to visit me? When you greeted me, the baby inside me jumped with joy. God blesses you, because when the Lord told you what will happen, you believed.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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