***Introit (Psalm 98)***

P: The Lord showed all nations His strength.

C: All the earth will see our God’s saving work.

P: Sing a new song for the Lord, because He does wonderful things!

C: His right hand and His holy arm saved us.

P: The Lord announces His saving work.

C: He showed all nations His righteousness.

P: He remembered His love and faithfulness for Israel.

C: All the earth sees God’s saving work.

P: All the earth, shout with joy to God!

C: Sing praise and joy 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: O God, You made us and You save us. You made us wonderful, and when Your Son became human, You made us new again. Your Son became the same-as us. Please make us always live in Jesus. 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 Exodus chapter 13.

 The Lord told MOSES, “Make holy every first-born for Me. In all Israel, the first-born people and first-born animals, they all belong to Me.”

 MOSES told the people, “Remember today. This is the day you left Egypt. Today you leave slavery. The Lord’s powerful hand saved you from this place. Today you will eat only flat bread, no raised bread.”

 “The Lord will bring you to CANAAN. That land He promised for you and your fathers. When He gives you that land, then you will give the first-born to the Lord. The first-born male from all your animals will belong to the Lord.”

 “The first-born donkey you will save. You will sacrifice a lamb to save the donkey. If you don’t sacrifice the lamb for the donkey, then you will break the donkey’s neck. All of your first-born sons you will save also; you will sacrifice to save your sons.”

 “Your son will ask you, ‘What are you doing?’ Then you will tell him, ‘The powerful Lord saved us from Egypt and slavery. The Egyptian king was stubborn and refused to free us. Then the Lord killed all the first-born in Egypt, both people and animals. That is why the first-born male animals I sacrifice to the Lord. And my first-born son, I sacrifice an animal and save my son.’”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Colossians chapter 3.

 God chose you, holy and dear people. Now, clothe yourselves with mercy, kindness, humble, quietness, and be slow to anger. And if one person complains against another, forgive each-other. The same-as the Lord forgives you, that is how you must forgive.

 Most important, love each-other. Love brings everyone together in perfect peace. And let the peace of Christ reign in your hearts. God called you together the same-as one body to give you peace. Also show thanks.

 Let Christ’s words live in you much every time you teach and encourage one-another in all wisdom. And let Christ’s words live in you every time you sing Psalms and music and spiritual songs in your hearts with thanks to God. And all you do in word or work, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, and give thanks to God the Father through Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel is from Luke chapter 2.

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

 JOSEPH and MARY followed MOSES’ law and waited until MARY was clean to enter the temple. Then they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to give Him to the Lord. God’s law says, “Every first-born son will be named holy to the Lord.” And they brought a sacrifice, same-as the Law says, “A pair of DOVES, or two young PIGEONS.”

 A man named SIMEON lived in the city named Jerusalem. He was a good man and faithful to God. He was waiting for God to send the Savior for Israel. The Holy Spirit was in his heart. The Holy Spirit told SIMEON that he will see the Savior before he died. The Holy Spirit led SIMEON into the temple.

 The parents brought the baby Jesus into the temple. They came to obey the Jewish Law. Then SIMEON took Jesus in his arms.

 SIMEON praised God and said: “Lord, now You let Your servant die in peace, because You kept Your promise. My eyes saw the Savior. You made the Savior ready for all people to see. Jesus will shine same-as a light for the non-Jewish people. Jesus is glory for Your people Israel.”

 Jesus’ father and mother were surprised SIMEON said these things about Jesus. SIMEON blessed them and told MARY, Jesus’ mother, “God sent this child to make many people rebel against God, and to give life to many people in Israel. People will speak against Him. He will show the secret thoughts in many hearts. And you, Mary, will have pain, same-as a sword piercing your soul.”

 One woman prophet from the family named ASHER came. Her father was PHANUEL, and the woman’s name was ANNA. She was very old. She was married for seven years, then her husband died. Now she was eighty-four years old. She stayed in the temple and worshiped night and day, praying and often not eating so-that she could pray better.

 ANNA came and gave thanks to God. For all those people waiting for God to save Jerusalem, she told them about Jesus.

 JOSEPH and MARY finished doing everything the Law of the Lord commanded. Then they went home to the city NAZARETH in the country GALILEE. The boy Jesus grew and became stronger and wiser, and God blessed Him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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