***Introit (Psalm 98)***

P: A child is born for us. God gave us a Son.

C: The government will depend on Him.

P: He will be named Wonderful Counselor,

C: Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

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: Almighty God, You gave Your only Son to be-born human with us. Make us free from sin through Jesus. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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 Isaiah chapter 52.

 The announcers have beautiful feet, those people coming on the mountains and bringing good news. They announce peace. They bring good news of joy. They announce salvation and say, “Your God reigns.”

 The men watching, they shout and sing with joy. They see the Lord coming again to JERUSALEM. Let the destroyed city JERUSALEM begin a happy song, because the Lord comforts and saves His people. The Lord showed His strength to all the nations of the earth, and all the earth will see our Savior God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the New Testament lesson, a shorter reading from Hebrews 1 and a longer reading from Hebrews 1. Choose one.*

*This is the shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from Hebrews chapter 1.

Long-ago, God spoke to our fathers many times in different ways through prophets. Now in the end time God spoke to us through His Son. Jesus made the world, and God gave everything to Jesus.

The Son shows God’s glory. The Son is God, and with the power of His Word the Son reigns all the world. The Son died to pay for our sins and now reigns with God the Father in heaven.

The Son is greater than all the angels, the same-as His name is greater than their name. God never said to any angel, “You are My Son. Today I announce You are My Son.” Also, God never said to an angel, “I will be your Father and you will be My Son.” But happened God’s Son came into the world, then God said, “Let all the angels of God worship Him (Jesus).”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*This is the longer reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from Hebrews chapter 1.

Long-ago, God spoke to our fathers many times in different ways through prophets. Now in the end time God spoke to us through His Son. Jesus made the world, and God gave everything to Jesus.

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God said this about the angels. “God made the angels same-as wind. He made His angel servants the same-as fire.”

But God said this about the Son. “O God, Your kingdom continues forever. And You reign honestly and correctly. You love righteousness and hate law-breaking. That is why God gave You joy above all other people.”

Also, God said this about the Son. “Lord, in the beginning, You made the foundation for the earth. Your hands made the sky. The earth and sky will dissolve, but You will continue. They are the same-as old clothes You roll-up, or the same-as changing clothes. But You continue the same, and Your years will never end.”

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

*This is the shorter reading.*

The Gospel is from John chapter 1.

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

The Word (Christ) lived in the beginning. The Word was with God. The Word was true God. In the beginning, Christ was with God. Christ made all things. Everything that God made, He made with Christ.

True life was in Christ. His life was the Light for all people. The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness can’t put-out the Light.

God sent a man named JOHN. And JOHN came to tell people the truth about the Savior, so people could believe because of his message. JOHN was not the Savior, but JOHN came to tell the truth about the Savior.

The true Savior coming into the world gives light to everyone. The Savior came into the world. The Savior made the world, but the people in the world didn’t-know the Savior.

The Savior came to His home nation, and His home people didn’t accept Him. To all those people accepting the Savior and believing in Him, He made them children of God. The children of God are not born from parents or born from sexual hunger or born because a man wanted that child. No, these children of God are born because God wanted them.

The Word (Christ) became human and lived among us. We saw His glory. The only Son of the Father has that glory. The Son is full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*This is the longer reading.*

The Gospel is from John chapter 1.

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

The Word (Christ) lived in the beginning. The Word was with God. The Word was true God. In the beginning, Christ was with God. Christ made all things. Everything that God made, He made with Christ.

True life was in Christ. His life was the Light for all people. The Light shines in the darkness. And the darkness can’t put-out the Light.

God sent a man named JOHN. And JOHN came to tell people the truth about the Savior, so people could believe because of his message. JOHN was not the Savior, but JOHN came to tell the truth about the Savior.

The true Savior coming into the world gives light to everyone. The Savior came into the world. The Savior made the world, but the people in the world didn’t-know the Savior.

The Savior came to His home nation, and His home people didn’t accept Him. To all those people accepting the Savior and believing in Him, He made them children of God. The children of God are not born from parents or born from sexual hunger or born because a man wanted that child. No, these children of God are born because God wanted them.

The Word (Christ) became human and lived among us. We saw His glory. The only Son of the Father has that glory. The Son is full of grace and truth.

 JOHN announced the truth about the Savior. JOHN said, “This is the man I talked about. I said He comes after me, but He is greater than me, because He lived before me.” Because He is good, He gives grace and more grace. God gave the law through MOSES. Grace and truth come to us through Jesus Christ. In the past, no one saw God. But the only God, the One with the Father, He showed us God.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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