***Introit (Psalm 55)***

P: Your burden give-to the Lord and He will support you.

**C: God will not let righteous people fall.**

P: My heart suffers inside me.

**C: I am afraid of death.**

P: I call-out to God.

**C: The Lord will save me!**

P: Evening, morning and noon I complain and groan.

**C: The Lord attends me.**

P: He saves my soul from my struggle.

**C: Because many people fight against me.**

**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 give all things good. Lead us to think only good and right things. With Your mercy, make us succeed doing those right things. 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 First Lesson is from Acts chapter 16.

 One night, PAUL saw a vision. He saw a man from MACEDONIA standing and begging him, “Come to MACEDONIA and help us.” After PAUL saw that vision, we quickly planned to go to MACEDONIA. We agreed that God called us to preach the gospel there.

 We took a ship from TROAS to SOMATHRACE, and the next day to NEAPOLIS. Then we went to the city named PHILIPPI. That is a Roman city and an important city in MACEDONIA. We stayed there for a while.

 On the worship day we went outside the city to the river. We thought we will find a meeting place for prayer. We sat and talked with the women meeting there. One woman was named LYDIA, from the city THYATIRA. She sold purple cloth and she believed in God. We talked to her and the Lord opened her heart to believe Paul’s message. We baptized her and everyone in her house. She asked us, “If you think I am faithful to the Lord, please stay in my house.” We accepted her invitation.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Second Lesson from Revelation chapter 21.

 Before, the seven angels had seven bowls full of the seven last PLAGUES (punishments). Now one of those angels told me, “Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” With the power of the Holy Spirit, the angel brought me to the top of a high mountain. The angel showed me JERUSALEM, the holy city, coming-down from God in heaven. The city had God’s glory. The city was bright the same-as a beautiful stone, the same-as JASPER, and clear the same-as a CRYSTAL.

 The city had a great high wall with 12 gates and with 12 angels taking-care-of the gates. The names of the 12 families in Israel were-written on the gates. Three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. The wall had 12 foundations. The names of the 12 apostles of Jesus were-written on the foundations.

 The 12 gates were 12 pearls, each gate made from one pearl. The street was pure gold, the same-as clear glass. I didn’t see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty Himself is the temple, and also Jesus Christ, the Lamb. The city didn’t need the sun or moon to shine, because the glory of God shines, and the Lamb Jesus is the light.

 All the nations will live in that light. The kings on earth will bring their glory for God. The gates will never close, because it will be always day and never night. All the nations will bring their glory and honor there. Nothing unclean or sinful or lying will go into the city. Only people having their names written in the Lamb’s book of life will live there.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the Gospel lesson, John 16 or John 5. Choose one.*

*The reading from John 16.*

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 16.

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

 Jesus said, At that time, you will not ask Me questions. I tell you the truth, if you ask the Father anything in My name, He will give it to you. Before now, you asked for nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive. Then you will have full joy.

 I explain these things to you in a way you don’t-yet understand. But a time is coming when I will speak for you to understand. I will tell you clearly about the Father. On that day you will ask in My name. I will not need to ask for you. The Father Himself loves you, because you love Me and you believe I came from God. I came from the Father and I came into the world. Now I am leaving the world and going to the Father.

 Jesus’ disciples said, “Now You are speaking clearly and not hiding anything. Now we know that You know all things. No one needs to question You. That is why we believe You came from God.”

 Jesus said, “Now you believe? A time is coming, the time is now, you will run away. All of you will run to your own homes and leave Me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. I told you these things for you to have peace in Me. In the world you will have trouble. But have courage, I defeated the world.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The reading from John 5.*

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 5.

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

 Now was the time for a Jewish feast celebration. So Jesus went to JERUSALEM.

 A gate in JERUSALEM was named the Sheep Gate. Near that gate, there was a water pool named BETHESDA. That place had five PORCHES. Many people lay there, people who were blind, couldn’t walk, or paralyzed. One man couldn’t walk for 38 years. Jesus saw the man and He knew the man was there a long time. Jesus asked him, “Do you want to become healed?”

 The man said, “Sir, when the water gets stirred-up, no one will help me get into the water. I try to go, but another person goes into the water first.”

 Jesus said to him, “Stand up, pick up your bed, and walk.” That minute, the man became healed. He picked up his bed and walked. That day was the Jewish worship day.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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