***Introit (Psalm 102)***

P: Lord, You will come and show mercy to Your people.

C: Now is the time for mercy. Now is the right time.

P: Announce this for future generations.

C: Then future generations can praise the Lord.

P: The Lord looked down from His holy place.

C: From heaven, the Lord looked on earth.

P: He heard prisoners groan.

C: He saved people from suffering and death.

P: Then they can praise the name of the Lord.

C: In Jerusalem, they announce His praise.

P: The people meet together.

C: Kingdoms meet together to worship the Lord.

**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, look-at us and our weakness with Your mercy. Use Your glorious hand to heal us and defend us. 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 Nehemiah chapter 8.

 All the people came together to the meeting place in front of the Water Gate. They told the law teacher named EZRA to bring the law book from Moses. The Lord gave that law book to Israel.

 Then EZRA the priest brought the law to the people meeting there, all the men and women who could listen and understand. They met on the first day in the seventh month. From early morning until noon, EZRA read the law. He read for all the men and women would could understand. All the people attended what the law book said.

 EZRA stood up high where all the people could see him. When he opened the book, all the people stood up. EZRA blessed the Lord, the great God.

 All the people lifted up their hands and answered and said, “Amen, amen!” Then they bowed down with their faces to the ground and worshiped the Lord. EZRA and the temple servants read the book of God’s law, and they explained what the law meant so the people could understand.

 Then NEHEMIAH the governor, and EZRA the priest and teacher, and the temple servants who taught the people, they told all the people, “Today is a holy day for the Lord your God. Today don’t cry or mourn.” All the people cried because they heard the law words.

 Then EZRA told the people, “Go and eat good food, drink sweet wine. Give food to people who have none. Today is a holy day for our Lord. Don’t be sad. The joy of the Lord is your strength.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 12.

 Christ’s church is the same as a body. One body has many parts, and the many parts all belong to one body. When we got baptized, the Holy Spirit made us joined with Christ’s body. No-matter we were Jews, non-Jews, slaves, or free people, God gave us the same Holy Spirit.

 The body doesn’t have only one part. The body has many parts. Suppose the foot says, “I am not a hand, I don’t belong to the body.” No-matter, the foot belongs to the body. Or if the ear says, “I am not an eye, I don’t belong to the body.” No-matter, the ear belongs to the body. If the body is only an eye, how can the body hear? If the body is only an ear, how can the body smell? God made different parts in the body the same-as He wanted. If all parts were the same, where is the body? There are many parts, but only one body.

 The eye can’t tell the hand, “I don’t need you!” The hand can’t tell the feet, “I don’t need you!” Truly, the body parts that seem weak, we need those parts! And the parts of our body that we don’t want to show, we honor and protect those parts and make them more beautiful. The parts of our body that are already beautiful don’t need more beauty. God made the body that way. The parts we don’t show get more honor. That way the body isn’t divided. Instead, all the body parts take-care of each other. If one believer suffers, all the believers in Christ suffer together. If one believer gets honor, all the believers in Christ rejoice together.

 You are Christ’s body. Each one of you is a part of His body. In the church, God first gave apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then doing wonderful works, then gifts for healing, helping, leading, and speaking in different languages. Not all people are apostles. Not all people are prophets. Not all people are teachers. Not all people do wonderful works. Not all people heal others. Not all people speak other languages. Not all people interpret. You should eagerly want the greater gifts. And I will show you a better way.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 4.

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

 Jesus went to NAZARETH, the place He grew up. On the worship day, Saturday, Jesus went to the Jewish church the same as He always went. He stood up to read. A man gave Jesus the scroll named ISAIAH for Jesus to read. Jesus unrolled the scroll and found these words written.

 “The Spirit of the Lord God is on Me, because the Lord anointed Me. He anointed Me to announce good news for poor people. He sent Me to announce freedom for people in prison, sight for blind people, and freedom for persecuted people. God sent Me to announce a year when the Lord will save people.”

 Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it to the assistant, and sat down. Everyone in church watched Him carefully. Jesus said, “Today, while you are listening, these words are truly happening.”

 All the people talked about Jesus and were amazed about the wonderful words Jesus said. They asked each other, “This is JOSEPH’S son, right?”

 Jesus said, “Truly you will tell Me, ‘Doctor, heal Yourself! We heard about what You did in the city CAPERNAUM. Do the same here in Your home town.’”

 Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, no home town welcomes their prophet. I tell you the truth, during ELIJAH’S life, many widows lived in Israel. For three years and six months, it didn’t rain, and no food grew. But God didn’t send ELIJAH to help a widow in Israel. He sent ELIJAH to a widow in the city ZEREPHATH in the country SIDON. Also, during ELISHA’S life, many LEPERS lived in Israel. But ELISHA healed no LEPER in Israel. He only healed NAAMAN from the country SYRIA.”

 The people in the Jewish church became very angry. They stood up and pushed Jesus out of the city to the top of a hill. They wanted to throw Him down the cliff. But Jesus walked through the crowd and left.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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