***Introit (Psalm 10)***

P: Lord, come and save!

C: Don’t forget suffering people.

P: The Lord is King forever.

C: The nations can’t keep their land always.

P: Lord, suffering people call to You and You attend them.

C: You will make strong their hearts.

P: You will help children without fathers and persecuted people.

C: Evil people will no more make people afraid.

**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 know many dangers surround us. We are weak and sinful, and we are not strong to defend against temptation and danger. Make us strong, protect us through danger, and save us from all temptations. 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.

*There are two Old Testament lessons to choose from, a shorter reading from Jeremiah 1 or a longer reading from Jeremiah 1. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Old Testament lesson is from Jeremiah chapter 1.

JEREMIAH wrote: The word of the Lord came to me. The Lord said, “Before I made you in your mother, I knew you. Before you were-born, I chose you. I decided you should become a prophet for the nations.”

I (JEREMIAH) said, “But Lord God, I don’t know how to speak. I am only a child.”

But the Lord told me, “Don’t say you are only a child. If I send you, you will go. If I command you to speak, you will say what I tell you. Don’t be afraid of those people, because I am with you. I am the Lord, and I will save you.”

The Lord’s hand touched my mouth. He said, “I put My words in your mouth. Look, today I chose you and I give you authority to warn nations and kingdoms. I give you authority to destroy and defeat, and to build and plant.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The Old Testament lesson is from Jeremiah chapter 1.

JEREMIAH wrote: The word of the Lord came to me. The Lord said, “Before I made you in your mother, I knew you. Before you were-born, I chose you. I decided you should become a prophet for the nations.”

I (JEREMIAH) said, “But Lord God, I don’t know how to speak. I am only a child.”

But the Lord told me, “Don’t say you are only a child. If I send you, you will go. If I command you to speak, you will say what I tell you. Don’t be afraid of those people, because I am with you. I am the Lord, and I will save you.”

The Lord’s hand touched my mouth. He said, “I put My words in your mouth. Look, today I chose you and I give you authority to warn nations and kingdoms. I give you authority to destroy and defeat, and to build and plant.”

The Lord asked me, “Jeremiah, what do you see?”

I said, “I see an ALMOND branch.”

The Lord said, “You see correct. I am watching My word and I will do the same-as I say.”

The Lord’s word came to me again. He said, “What do you see?”

I said, “I see a pot boiling in the North, pouring here.”

The Lord said, “From the North, destruction will come to all the people here. Look, I am bringing all the nations and kingdoms from the North. The Lord says they will come and set-up their thrones in the Jerusalem gates. They will destroy all the Jerusalem walls and all the cities in JUDAH.

The Lord said, “I will judge against Jerusalem and JUDAH because they ignore Me and do evil works. They sacrifice to other gods and they worship idols their hands made. You, JEREMIAH, get ready for work. Stand up and tell them everything I say. Don’t be afraid of them, or I will make you afraid of Me. Look, today I make you the same-as a strong city, an IRON pillar, and BRONZE walls. You will be strong against all the nation, against the kings of JUDAH, the leaders, priests and people. They will fight against you, but they can’t defeat you. The Lord announces, I am with you to save you.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 13.

You should eagerly want the better gifts. Now I will show you the much better way.

If I speak in people’s languages and angels’ languages, but I have no love, then I am only a noisy GONG or CYMBAL. Suppose God gave me prophecy and I understand all knowledge and God’s secret things, and I have faith so I can move mountains. But if I don’t have love, I am nothing. Suppose I give away all my money and things, and I give my body to get burned. But if I don’t have love, doing those things helps me none.

Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not jealous and doesn’t boast. Love is not proud. Love doesn’t insult people. Love doesn’t say, “Me first!” Love doesn’t easily become angry and it doesn’t remember other people’s sins. Love is not happy with evil, but love rejoices with truth. Love is always patient, always trusts, always hopes, and never gives up.

Love never fails. Prophecies will end. Speaking in different languages will end. Knowledge will disappear. Now we know a little, and we prophesy a little. But when the perfect thing comes, the thing not perfect disappears. Long ago, when I was a child, I talked and thought the same as a child. When I became a man, I gave-up my childish things.

Now we see only a little, same-as looking in a dirty mirror. In the future, we will see face to face. Now I know a little, but in the future I will know completely, the same as God completely knows me.

These three things continue: faith, hope, and love. But the best is love.

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 CAPERNAUM, a town in GALILEE. On the worship day, He went to the Jewish church and began teaching the people. Everyone was surprised, because He taught with authority.

A man in the church had a demon in him. He shouted, “Jesus from NAZARETH, what do you want from us? Did You come to destroy us? I know who You are. You are the Holy One of God!”

Jesus commanded the demon and said, “Be quiet and come out from the man!” The demon threw-down the man in the middle of the church and came out. The man didn’t get hurt.

All the people were surprised. They talked to each other and said, “What is this teaching? Jesus’ word has authority and power to command evil spirits, and they come out from people.” The news about Jesus spread to every town in the area.

Jesus stood up and left the church. He went to SIMON PETER’S home. Peter’s mother-in-law suffered from a high fever. They asked Jesus to heal her. Jesus stood near her, commanded the fever, and the fever left. Immediately she got up and served them.

At sunset, everyone brought to Jesus many sick people having all different diseases. Jesus touched and healed all of them. Also many people had demons, and Jesus forced them out. The demons shouted, “You are the Son of God!” But Jesus commanded them to be quiet, because they knew He was the Christ.

In the morning, Jesus left and went to a lonely place. The people searched-for Him and found Him. They wanted Jesus to stay with them. But Jesus said, “I must go to other cities and preach the good news about God’s kingdom there also. That is why I am here.” Jesus continued preaching in the Jewish churches in JUDEA.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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