***Introit (Psalm 119)***

P: God, I will praise You with a right heart.

C: I will praise You when I learn Your good and right commands.

P: God blesses people who are innocent.

C: God blesses people who follow His law.

P: God blesses people who keep His word.

C: God blesses people who search-for Him with all their heart.

P: You tell us to obey Your law.

C: You tell us to carefully follow Your law.

P: I want to faithfully follow God’s way

C: And obey all Your laws.

**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: Lord, in Your mercy, attend to Your people’s prayers. We sin and we suffer because of our sin. Save us with Your goodness and give glory to Your name. 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 Jeremiah chapter 17.

 The Lord says this: “If a man trusts in people, and he trusts his own strength, and his heart leaves the Lord, then curse that man. He will be the same-as a bush in the desert. He will not experience anything good. He will live in the dry places in the desert. He will live in a land full of salt, a place no one lives.”

 “But when a man trusts the Lord, God blesses that man. He will be the same as a tree planted by water. The tree grows roots near the stream. When heat comes, that tree is not afraid. The leaves are always green. During a dry year, the tree doesn’t worry. The tree always grows fruit.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two New Testament lessons to choose from, a shorter reading from 1 Corinthians 15 or a longer reading from 1 Corinthians 15. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

 We preached to you that God raised Christ alive from the dead. Then how can some of you say no one will rise from the dead? If dead people don’t rise, then Christ didn’t rise. And if Christ didn’t rise, then our preaching is worthless and your faith is worthless. And worse, if Christ didn’t rise, then we are lying about God, because we preach that God raised Christ.

If dead people don’t rise alive, then also God didn’t raise Christ. I will say it again; if dead people don’t rise alive, then Christ didn’t rise alive. If Christ didn’t rise, then your faith is worthless and you are stuck in sin. And the people who believed in Christ and already died, those people are lost. If our hope in Christ is only good for this life, then we need pity more than anyone.

 But this is the truth: God raised Christ from the dead. Of all the people who died, Jesus is the first one to rise alive.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 15.

 Dear Christians, I want you to remember the good news I preached to you. You believed that good news and that is saving you, if you continue believing. But don’t make your faith worth nothing.

 The most important message God gave me, I also gave you. Christ died for our sins, the same-as the Bible said. He was buried and God raised Jesus alive on the third day, the same-as the Bible said. Jesus showed Himself to PETER, then to the twelve disciples. Then Jesus showed Himself to 500 believers at one time. Most of them are alive today, but some have died. Then Jesus showed Himself to JAMES and then to all the apostles.

 Last, Jesus showed Himself to me. I am the same-as a baby born at the wrong time. I am the last important of the apostles. I don’t deserve the name “APOSTLE” because I persecuted God’s church. But God’s grace changed me and made me who I am. He didn’t waste His grace. Truly, I worked harder than all the apostles. But I didn’t work. God’s grace worked in me. Then, no-matter I preached or they preached, this is our message and you believed.

 We preached to you that God raised Christ alive from the dead. Then how can some of you say no one will rise from the dead? If dead people don’t rise, then Christ didn’t rise. And if Christ didn’t rise, then our preaching is worthless and your faith is worthless. And worse, if Christ didn’t rise, then we are lying about God, because we preach that God raised Christ.

If dead people don’t rise alive, then also God didn’t raise Christ. I will say it again; if dead people don’t rise alive, then Christ didn’t rise alive. If Christ didn’t rise, then your faith is worthless and you are stuck in sin. And the people who believed in Christ and already died, those people are lost. If our hope in Christ is only good for this life, then we need pity more than anyone.

 But this is the truth: God raised Christ from the dead. Of all the people who died, Jesus is the first one to rise alive.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 6.

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

 Jesus came down the mountain and stood on a flat place. A large crowd of disciples was there, also many people from all over JUDEA, JERUSALEM, and from TYRE and SIDON. They came to hear Jesus and for Jesus to heal their sickness. Jesus healed people who had evil spirits. All the people tried to touch Jesus, because power came from Him and healed them all.

 Jesus looked at His disciples and said, “You who are poor, God blesses you, because the kingdom of God belongs to you. You who are hungry now, God blesses you, because you will be satisfied. You who cry now, God blesses you, because you will laugh.”

 “When you follow the Son of Man and people hate you, reject you, insult you, and name you evil because you follow Me, God blesses you. When that happens, rejoice and jump with joy, because your reward in heaven is great. Long ago, their fathers abused the prophets the same.”

 “But terrible for you rich people! You already have your comfort. Terrible for you who have much to eat now! You will become hungry. Terrible for you who laugh now! You will grieve and cry. Terrible for you when all people say good things about you! Long ago, their fathers said good things about the false prophets.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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