***Introit (Psalm 5)***

P: The Lord knows the way righteous people live.

C: The way wicked people live will end in death.

P: God, You are not happy with wicked actions.

C: Evil people can’t live with You.

P: People who boast can’t stand in-front-of You.

C: You hate people doing evil.

P: You destroy all people speaking lies.

C: The Lord hates people who kill and lie.

P: But because of Your faithful love, I will enter Your house.

C: In Your holy temple, I will worship You.

P: Lord, save me from my enemies and lead me in Your righteousness.

C: Lead me on Your straight path.

**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 are glorious because You always show mercy. When people stop trusting You, give them Your grace. Bring them again to You with sorry hearts and strong faith. Then they will have strong trust in Your true word. 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 Ezekiel chapter 33.

God spoke to EZEKIEL. Son of man, I made you a watchman for the people of Israel. You will hear a message from My mouth, and you will warn them for Me.

I will tell a wicked man, “Wicked man, you will truly die.” If you don’t warn him to stop his sin, then he will die as a sinner, but you are guilty for his death. But if you warn him to stop his sin, and if he doesn’t repent, then he will die as a sinner. But you are not guilty, you are safe.

Son of man, now tell the people of ISRAEL, “You say your sins and wrong-doings burden you. Because you sin, your life dissolves-away. You ask, how can we live?” Tell those people, “The Lord God announces this. I tell you the truth, I am not happy when wicked people die. I am happy when wicked people repent and live. Stop sinning! Repent from your evil ways! People of Israel, you will die because you will not repent. Why do that?”

Son of man, tell your people, “If a righteous man sins, his righteousness will not save him. If a wicked man repents, his past wickedness will not hurt him. But when a righteous man sins, his past righteousness will not make him live again.

I tell the righteous person he will truly live. If he trusts his own righteousness and then he sins, I will not remember his righteousness. His sin will make him die.

I tell the wicked person, you will truly die. But if he stops his sin and he does good and right things, if he gives back borrowed things, if he pays back what he stole, if he lives the way that gives life, and he doesn’t sin, then he will live. He will not die. I don’t judge against him for his past sins. He did good and right things. He will live.”

But the people of ISRAEL say, “The Lord’s way is not right.” Their way is not right! When a righteous person stops doing good things and he sins, then he will die because of his sin. But when a wicked person stops his wickedness and he does good and right, he will live.

But you still say, “The Lord’s way is not right.” People of Israel, I will use your actions to judge each one of you.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 10.

Dear Christians, I want you to know this. Our fathers came out from EGYPT all under the cloud, and they all walked through the sea. The cloud and the sea was their baptism. That is how they became joined to MOSES. All of them ate the same spiritual food and drank the same spiritual drink. How? A spiritual rock traveled with them, and our fathers all drank from that rock. That rock was Christ. But God was not happy with most of the people. Many of them died in the desert.

These things happened to warn us not to do evil things the same-as they did. Don’t worship idols. Some of them worshiped idols, because the Bible says, “The people sat-down to eat and drink and stood-up to play.”

We should not do sexual sins. Some of them did sexual sins, and in one day 23,000 people died. We should not test the Lord. Some of them tested God, and snakes killed them. Don’t complain. Some of them complained, and the angel of death killed them.

These things happened for them to become examples. Those stories are written down to teach us now, because we live near the end of the world. So if you think you are strong, be-careful and don’t fall. The temptation you experience is the same temptation everyone experiences. God is faithful. He will not let you get tempted more than you can resist. But when you get tempted, God will give you a way out. Then you can resist the temptation.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 13.

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

Some Jews from GALILEE went to the temple to worship. When they gave their sacrifices, PONTIUS PILATE killed them. Some people told Jesus about that. Jesus said, “Do you think those people from GALILEE were terrible sinners worse than other people? Because they suffered this way, that means they are worse sinners? I tell you, no! But if you don’t repent, all of you will die. What about the 18 people in the city SILOAM? The tower fell and killed 18 people. Were they sinners worse than anyone else living in JERUSALEM? No! But if you don’t repent, all of you will die.”

Jesus told this story, “A man had a VINEYARD and a FIG tree planted there. He looked-for fruit on the tree, but he found nothing. He told the man who took-care of the VINEYARD, ‘For three years I looked-for fruit here and found none. Cut down this tree. Why should it use the soil?’ The man answered, ‘Sir, please leave it alone one more year. I will fertilize it and help the soil. If the tree grows fruit next year, very good. But if it doesn’t grow fruit, you can cut it down.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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