***Introit (Psalm 51)***

P: God, show mercy to me, because Your love never ends.

C: Because You have much mercy, please forgive my sin.

P: Wash-away all my wrong doing.

C: Make me clean from all my sin.

P: I know my law breaking.

C: I always see my sin.

P: I sinned against You, Lord. What You name evil, I did that.

C: Your words and Your judgment are right.

P: I was born a sinner.

C: Also inside my mother, I was a sinner.

P: You are happy when Your truth is in us.

C: You teach me wisdom in my heart.

**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, our heavenly Father, every morning You show mercy new. We deserve only punishment, but You accept us as Your children and You give us everything we need for our body and soul. Make us recognize Your mercy, thank You for Your gifts, and live following You. 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 Isaiah chapter 12.

 In that future day, you will say, “I will praise You, Lord. No-matter You were angry against me, now Your anger is finished and You comfort me. Truly God is my salvation. I will trust Him and I will not be afraid. The Lord God is my strength and my song. He is my salvation.”

 With joy you will get salvation same-as bringing-up water from a well. In that future day, you will say, “Thank the Lord. Call His name. Tell the nations what He did. Announce that His name is wonderful. Sing praises to the Lord, because He did glorious things. Announce this for all the world. All God’s people, shout and sing with joy, because the Holy One of Israel is great among you.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 2 Corinthians chapter 5.

 From now on, we don’t think about anyone only as a human. In the past, we thought about Jesus as only human, but not anymore. If anyone belongs to Christ, that person becomes new. The old life is finished. God made that person new.

 All this is from God. Through Christ, God made peace between us and Himself. And God gave us the work of bringing people into peace with Him. I mean that God was in Christ making peace between the world and Himself. God didn’t judge people for their sins. And He gave us the message of peace to tell people.

 Now Christ sent us to speak for Him. God is calling people through us. We speak for Christ, and we beg you to have peace with God. Christ had no sin. But God made Jesus filled with our sins. God did that for us, then in Christ we can have righteousness from God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 15.

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

 The tax collectors and “sinners” all came to hear Jesus. But the PHARISEES and law teachers complained, “Jesus welcomes sinners and He eats with them!”

 Then Jesus told them this story. “A man had two sons. The younger son told his father, ‘Father, give me my inheritance now.’ So the father divided his things between the sons. Soon, the younger son gathered all his things and he went to a country far away. He spent and wasted all his money in wild living. Now all his money was gone. Then the country had a FAMINE (hunger). Almost no food grew, and the son became very hungry. He began working for a citizen of that country. His job was to feed pigs. He wanted to eat the pig food, but no one gave him anything.

 Then he thought and said, ‘Many of my father’s servants have more than enough food, and I am here starving to death! I will go home to my father and tell him; Father, I sinned against heaven and against you. You should not name me your son. Make me your servant.’ Then he stood up and went home.

 While he was still far from home, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. The father ran to his son, hugged and kissed him. Then the son said, ‘Father, I sinned against heaven and against you. You should not name me your son.’

 But the father told his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Bring a ring for his finger and shoes for his feet. Kill the fat CALF. Let’s have a feast and celebrate! Because my son was dead and now he is alive; he was lost but now I found him.’ And they began celebrating.

 At the same time, the older son was in the field. He came near the house and heard music and dancing. He called a servant and asked what was happening. The servant said, ‘Your younger brother came home. Your father killed the fat CALF and is celebrating because your brother is home safe.’

 The older brother became angry and refused to go inside. His father came outside and begged him. But the son answered, ‘Look! Many years I worked hard for you and I always obeyed you. But you never gave me a goat for me to celebrate with friends. But your son wastes your money with prostitutes, then he comes home and you kill the fat CALF for him!’

 The father told the older son, ‘My son, you are always with me. Everything I have belongs to you. We had to celebrate and be glad, because your brother was dead and now is alive again. He was lost and now I found him.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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