***Introit (Psalm 136)***

P: Thank the Lord, because He is good!

**C: Because His faithful love continues forever.**

P: He remembered us in our trouble.

**C: Because His faithful love continues forever.**

P: He saved us from our enemies.

**C: Because His faithful love continues forever.**

P: He gives food to all living things.

**C: Because His faithful love continues forever.**

P: Thank God reigning in heaven.

**C: Because His faithful love continues forever.**

**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 Jesus Christ, You show full mercy on us and You save us from anything hurting us. Teach us to love You more than all things. And teach us to love other people the same-as we love ourselves. Jesus, You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (copy) Amen.

*There are two choices for the Old Testament lesson, a shorter reading from Leviticus 19 or a longer reading from Leviticus 18-19. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Old Testament lesson is from Leviticus chapter 19.

The Lord gave these laws to Israel.

“When you harvest in your land, don’t harvest all the food to the edge of the field. If you drop food, don’t pick it up. Don’t harvest everything in the field. In your vineyard, don’t pick-up grapes from the ground. Leave those things for the poor people and foreigners to pick-up. I am the Lord your God.

You will not steal. You will not cheat or lie to each other.

You will not use My name to swear lies. Don’t shame My name. I am the Lord.

You will not oppress your neighbor, and you will not steal from him. If a man works for you, pay him the same day. Don’t wait until morning to pay him.

Don’t curse a deaf man. Don’t put things in-front-of a blind person to make him fall. You will honor your God. I am the Lord.

Be honest and correct when you judge things. Don’t favor poor people, and don’t favor rich people. You will judge fairly. Don’t gossip. Don’t falsely blame your neighbor about anything to hurt your neighbor. I am the Lord.

You must not hate your brother in your heart, but you should correct your neighbor. Then that neighbor won’t lead you to sin.

Don’t get revenge. Don’t continue to hate other Israelites. Love your neighbor the same-as you love yourself. I am the Lord.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The Old Testament lesson is from Leviticus chapters 18 and 19.

The Lord told MOSES, “Talk to the people of ISRAEL. Tell them, ‘I am the Lord your God. You will not do the same-as the people of EGYPT, that place you lived. And you will not do the same as the people in CANAAN, the country I will give you. You will not follow their laws. You will follow My rules and obey my laws. I am the Lord your God. That is why you will obey My laws and My rules. If a person obeys My laws, he will live. I am the Lord.’

‘When you harvest in your land, don’t harvest all the food to the edge of the field. If you drop food, don’t pick it up. Don’t harvest everything in the field. In your vineyard, don’t pick-up grapes from the ground. Leave those things for the poor people and foreigners to pick-up. I am the Lord your God.

You will not steal. You will not cheat or lie to each other.

You will not use My name to swear lies. Don’t shame My name. I am the Lord.

You will not oppress your neighbor, and you will not steal from him. If a man works for you, pay him the same day. Don’t wait until morning to pay him.

Don’t curse a deaf man. Don’t put things in front of a blind person to make him fall. You will honor your God. I am the Lord.

Be honest and correct when you judge things. Don’t favor poor people, and don’t favor rich people. You will judge fairly. Don’t gossip. Don’t falsely blame your neighbor about anything to hurt your neighbor. I am the Lord.

You must not hate your brother in your heart, but you should correct your neighbor. Then that neighbor won’t lead you to sin.

Don’t get revenge. Don’t continue to hate other Israelites. Love your neighbor the same-as you love yourself. I am the Lord.’”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Colossians chapter 1.

I am PAUL. God made me an apostle belonging to Christ Jesus. This letter is also from TIMOTHY, our brother. We write to you, the holy and faithful believers in Christ at the city named COLOSSAE. May God our Father give you grace and peace.

We pray for you and we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. We do that because we heard about your faith in Christ Jesus and that you love all the holy people. You believe and love because you have hope kept for you in heaven. You heard about that hope in God’s true word, the gospel. That gospel is spreading and growing all over the world and among you. You heard the gospel and understood God’s grace, and the gospel grows in you.

Our good and loved helper EPAPHRAS taught you the gospel. He faithfully serves Christ for you and he told us about your love in the Holy Spirit. That is why we don’t stop praying for you. We ask God to fill you with knowing what He wants, every kind of spiritual wisdom, and understanding. Then you can live worthy of the Lord, to please God in every way, doing every good work and knowing God more and more. May God make you strong with His strength. Then you will continue faithful and patient with joy, and you will thank God the Father. He gave you an inheritance with the holy people in heaven. God saved us from the devil’s power. He gave us a place in the kingdom of His dear Son. Jesus paid for our sins; He forgives us and makes us free.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 10.

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

A Jewish law teacher stood up to test Jesus. He asked, “Teacher, what must I do to get eternal life?” Jesus asked the man, “What is-written in the law? What do you read?”

The man answered, “You will love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your strength and with all your mind. And love your neighbor the same-as you love yourself.”

Jesus told the man, “You are correct. Do that and you will live.”

But the man wanted to prove himself correct. The man asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?”

Jesus told the man a story. “A man traveled from JERUSALEM to JERICHO. Some robbers came and tore-off his clothes, beat the man, and went away. The man was-almost dead. And it happened that a Jewish priest traveled on that road, but happened the priest saw the man, the priest went across the road and passed-by. Also on that road came a temple servant, and he saw the man lying on the road, and also he passed-by.

Then came a man from the country named SAMARIA. And he saw the man and felt sorry for him. That man came and wrapped-his-body and poured oil and wine on his wounds. He put the man on his donkey and brought the man to a house and took-care of that man. The next day the man from SAMARIA gave money to the house keeper. He said, ‘Please take-care-of this man. And any more money you need, I will pay you when I come again.’”

Jesus asked the law teacher, “What do you think? After the robbers beat-up that man, which of the three men was a good neighbor to him?”

The law teacher said, “The one man that showed kindness.”

Jesus said, “You go and do the same thing.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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