***Introit (Psalm 119)***

P: Your word is a lamp for my feet,

**C: And a light for my path.**

P: The Lord is my life.

**C: I promise to keep Your words.**

P: I beg Your favor with all my heart.

**C: Show mercy to me the same-as You promised.**

P: When I think about my life,

**C: I change my ways to follow Your word.**

P: I hurry and I don’t wait

**C: To follow Your commandments.**

P: Lord, the earth is full of Your continuing love.

**C: Teach me Your law!**

**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, give us Your Spirit, then we can attend Your word and know Jesus our Savior. Then with Your word and Holy Spirit, we can live agreeing with Your wants. 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 choices for the Old Testament lesson, a shorter reading from Genesis 18 or a longer reading from Genesis 18. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Old Testament lesson is from Genesis chapter 18.

 About noon, ABRAHAM sat in-front-of his tent near the trees at the place named MAMRE. The Lord came to him. ABRAHAM looked and saw three men coming near. ABRAHAM ran to meet them, and he bowed in-front-of them.

 ABRAHAM said, “My Lord, please show kindness to me and stay here with me. Because you came here, we will bring water and wash your feet, and you can rest under the tree. I will get food for you to get energy again, and then you can leave.”

 The three men answered, “Yes, do what you said.”

 ABRAHAM hurried into the tent to his wife SARAH. ABRAHAM said, “Quick, get some flour and make three cakes.” Then ABRAHAM ran to the fields and found a young cow and gave that to his servant to cook it. Then ABRAHAM took some cheese and milk and meat finished prepared and served the visitors sitting under the tree. ABRAHAM stood near while they ate.

 The three men asked, “Where is your wife, SARAH?”

 ABRAHAM answered, “In the tent.”

 The Lord said, “This time next year, I will come again to you, and your wife SARAH will have a son.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The Old Testament lesson is from Genesis chapter 18.

 About noon, ABRAHAM sat in-front-of his tent near the trees at the place named MAMRE. The Lord came to him. ABRAHAM looked and saw three men coming near. ABRAHAM ran to meet them, and he bowed in-front-of them.

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 The three men asked, “Where is your wife, SARAH?”

 ABRAHAM answered, “In the tent.”

 The Lord said, “This time next year, I will come again to you, and your wife SARAH will have a son.”

 SARAH stood in the tent and listened. ABRAHAM and SARAH were old, and SARAH was too old to have children. SARAH laughed and thought, “My husband and I are old! Now I will have this joy?”

 The Lord asked ABRAHAM, “Why did SARAH laugh and say, ‘Will I have a child now, when I am old?’ Is anything too hard for the Lord? Next year I will come again to you and SARAH will have a son.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Colossians chapter 1.

 Once before you were-separated from God. In your minds you were God’s enemies and you did bad things. But now, because Jesus died, God brought you to Himself and makes you holy and innocent and without blame, if you continue in your faith, strong and faithful. Don’t leave the hope you heard in the gospel. This is the same good news preached to every person on earth, and I, PAUL, am a servant of that good news.

 I am happy that I suffered for you. Christ suffered on the cross. Now I follow Him and suffer Christ’s body, the church. God made me a servant when God gave-me this work to preach His word to you.

 God hid His word from the people for many years, but now God shows that secret to His holy people. God wanted to tell them about His wonderful glory among the non-Jewish peoples. That glorious word is that Christ lives in you and He gives you hope. We preach Christ, warning everyone and teaching everyone. We use every kind of wisdom to show that we are holy and perfect through Christ. That is my goal. That is why I work hard, because God’s energy and power are working in me.

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.

 While the group was-walking, Jesus entered a city. A woman named MARTHA invited Jesus into her home. MARTHA had a sister named MARY. MARY sat near Jesus’ feet and listened to Him teach. But MARTHA was-worried about working to serve Jesus. MARTHA came and asked, “Lord, my sister lets me do all the work. You don’t-care? Tell her to help me!”

 Jesus answered, “MARTHA, MARTHA, you are busy and you worry about many things. But you need only one thing. MARY made the correct decision, and you must not take-away that from her.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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