***Introit (Psalm 119)***

P: God says, in the day of trouble, call-to Me.

**C: I will save you, and you will give-Me glory.**

P: All my heart cries-out to You. Lord, answer me!

**C: I will follow Your commands.**

P: Lord, I call-to You. Save me!

**C: Then I can obey Your word.**

P: Before sunrise, I wake-up and cry-to-You for help.

**C: I hope in Your words.**

P: All night, I stay awake.

**C: Then I can think-about Your promise.**

P: Attend to me because of Your continuing love.

**C: Lord, show mercy and give-me life.**

**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, show mercy and attend to Your people’s prayers. Through Your word and Holy Spirit, teach us how to pray. Then all our prayers will please 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.

*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.

Then the Lord said, “I hear complaints against the cities named SODOM and GOMORRAH. Their sin is very bad. I will go and see the things they did.”

 The two men (angels) started to leave, but ABRAHAM stayed in-front-of the Lord. ABRAHAM asked, “Will You destroy good people with bad people? Maybe fifty good people live in that city. Will You destroy the city and not save the fifty good people? You can never destroy the good people with the bad people. The Judge of the world must do correct.”

 And the Lord answered, “If I find fifty good people in SODOM, I will save them and not destroy the city.”

 ABRAHAM said, “I am a sinful man, and I am-talking to the Lord.” Then he asked, “Maybe forty-five good people live in the city. Will You destroy the city?”

 And the Lord answered, “No. If I find forty-five good people there, I will not destroy it.”

 Then ABRAHAM asked, “What about forty good people?”

 And the Lord answered, “For forty people, I will not destroy the city.”

 Then ABRAHAM asked, “Please don’t be-angry against me. What if thirty good people live there?”

 The Lord answered, “If I find thirty good people, I will not destroy it.”

 ABRAHAM asked, “I know I am talking to the Lord. Maybe twenty good people live there.”

 God answered, “For twenty I will not destroy it.”

 Then ABRAHAM again asked, “Lord, please don’t be-angry, and I will speak only once more. Maybe You find only ten good people there.”

 The Lord answered, “If I find ten good people, I will not destroy the city.”

 The Lord finished talking with ABRAHAM and He left, and ABRAHAM went home.

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.

 The Lord said, “I will not hide My work. I will show ABRAHAM what I will do, because he will become a great and strong nation. Through ABRAHAM, I will bless all nations on earth. I chose ABRAHAM and he will teach his children and family to follow My way and do right and good. Then the Lord will give ABRAHAM what He promised.”

 Then the Lord said, “I hear complaints against the cities named SODOM and GOMORRAH. Their sin is very bad. I will go and see the things they did.”

 The two men (angels) started to leave, but ABRAHAM stayed in-front-of the Lord. ABRAHAM asked, “Will You destroy good people with bad people? Maybe fifty good people live in that city. Will You destroy the city and not save the fifty good people? You can never destroy the good people with the bad people. The Judge of the world must do correct.”

 And the Lord answered, “If I find fifty good people in SODOM, I will save them and not destroy the city.”

 ABRAHAM said, “I am a sinful man, and I am-talking to the Lord.” Then ABRAHAM asked, “Maybe forty-five good people live in the city. Will You destroy the city?”

 And the Lord answered, “No. If I find forty-five good people there, I will not destroy it.”

 Then ABRAHAM asked, “What about forty good people?”

 And the Lord answered, “For forty people, I will not destroy the city.”

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 The Lord answered, “If I find thirty good people, I will not destroy it.”

 ABRAHAM asked, “I know I am talking to the Lord. Maybe twenty good people live there.”

 God answered, “For twenty I will not destroy it.”

 Then ABRAHAM again asked, “Lord, please don’t be-angry, and I will speak only once more. Maybe You find only ten good people there.”

 The Lord answered, “If I find ten good people, I will not destroy the city.”

 The Lord finished talking with ABRAHAM and He left, and ABRAHAM went home.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the New Testament lesson, a shorter reading from Colossians 2 or a longer reading from Colossians 2. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from Colossians chapter 2.

 You believed Christ Jesus the Lord, now also you live with Jesus. Jesus began your faith and He grows and supports you in faith, the same-as people taught you. And you will overflow with thanksgiving.

 Be-careful! Don’t let anyone make you a prisoner with human teachings and foolish ideas. They teach you to follow people’s traditions and things in this world. Those teachings are against Christ.

 God lives in Christ’s body. Jesus Himself lives in you. He is the Lord above all rulers and authorities. Jesus circumcised you. Not a circumcision on your body, but Christ did that circumcision when you got baptized. Baptism buried you with Christ and raised you alive with Jesus through faith in the power of God, because God raised Jesus from death.

 In-the-past, you were-dead in your sins and in your not-clean body. But now God made you alive with Jesus because He forgave all your sins. The law accuses us and shows all our sins, but Jesus destroyed that when He put our sins and failures on the cross. God took-away power from the rulers and authorities and showed the world that Jesus defeated them on the cross.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from Colossians chapter 2.

 You believed Christ Jesus the Lord, now also you live with Jesus. Jesus began your faith and He grows and supports you in faith, the same-as people taught you. And you will overflow with thanksgiving.

 Be-careful! Don’t let anyone make you a prisoner with human teachings and foolish ideas. They teach you to follow people’s traditions and things in this world. Those teachings are against Christ.

 God lives in the body of Christ. Jesus Himself lives in you. He is the Lord above all rulers and authorities. In Jesus, He circumcised you. Not a circumcision on your body, but Christ did that circumcision when you got baptized. Baptism buried you with Christ and raised you alive with Jesus through faith in the power of God, because God raised Jesus from death.

 In-the-past, you were-dead in your sins and in your not-clean body. But now God made you alive with Jesus because He forgave all your sins. The law accuses us and shows all our sins, but Jesus destroyed that when He put our sins and failures on the cross. God took-away power from the rulers and authorities and showed the world that Jesus defeated them on the cross.

 Now, don’t let anyone judge you about food or drink, or a worship celebration or new moon or worship day. Those only look forward to the real thing. Christ Himself is the real thing. Don’t let anyone lead you away with their rules, worshiping angels, talk about visions or bragging. They don’t trust Jesus. He is the Head of His body. He feeds us and keeps us together and grows us in God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 11.

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

 One day Jesus was-praying. Happened Jesus finished, one of His disciples said, “Lord, JOHN the BAPTIZER taught his disciples to pray. You teach us to pray the same.”

 Jesus said, “When you pray, say: Father, holy is Your name, Your kingdom come. Every-day give us our daily bread. Forgive our sins, because we forgive all people sinning against us. And don’t lead us into temptation.”

 Jesus said, “Suppose you have a friend. At midnight, you go to your friend and ask, ‘Friend, let me borrow three loaves-of-bread. A visitor came to my house and I have no food for him.’”

 “Your friend will answer, ‘Don’t bother me. The door is-locked, and my children are in bed with me. I can’t get-up and give you anything.’ I tell you, you are friends, but he will not get-up and give you anything. But if you bother him enough, he will get-up and give you anything you need.”

 “Now I tell you, ask and God will give to you. Search and you will find. Knock and God will open the door for you. Anyone asking will receive and anyone searching will find and anyone knocking, God will open the door for him.”

 “If your son asks for a fish, will you give-him a snake? Or if your son asks for an egg, will you give-him a SCORPION? You are evil people but you know how to give your children good gifts. Think how-much more your Father in heaven will give the Holy Spirit to people asking Him!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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