***Introit (Psalm 147)***

P: Sing for the Lord with thanksgiving,

**C: Make music for our God!**

P: He puts clouds in the sky. He prepares rain for earth.

**C: He makes grass grow on the hills.**

P: He gives food for the animals,

**C: And He gives food for the young birds.**

P: Strong horses don’t make God happy.

**C: Man’s strength doesn’t make God happy.**

P: The Lord is happy with people honoring Him.

**C: He is happy with people who hope in His continuing love.**

**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, full of mercy, Your grace makes us Your people, and Your grace makes us able to serve You. Don’t let us follow what we see. Make faith guide our life, following Your way into eternal life. 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 Genesis chapter 15.

The Lord spoke to ABRAM (ABRAHAM) in a vision. He said, “ABRAM, don’t be afraid. I am your Shield. Your reward is very great.”

ABRAM asked, “Lord God, what will You give me? I have no children. When I die, my servant ELIEZER from DAMASCUS will get everything. You gave me no children. My servant will get everything.”

The Lord said, “ELIEZER will not get your property. Your own child will inherit everything.” The Lord took ABRAM outside and said, “Look at the sky. If you can, try to count the stars. You will have that many descendants.”

ABRAM believed the Lord, and the Lord said that was righteousness for ABRAM.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson from Hebrews chapter 11.

Faith means what we hope for is fully true, and faith is the proof of things we can’t see. God accepted people from long ago through their faith. God used things we can see to make the world? No. Through faith, we know God used His Word to made the world.

Through faith, ABEL gave God a better sacrifice than CAIN, and God said ABEL was righteous. God accepted ABEL’s gifts and said good things about him. ABEL died, but through his faith, he continues speaking.

Through faith, ENOCH didn’t die and he went up into heaven. No one could find him because God took-him up. Before God took him, God said ENOCH pleased Him. Without faith, no one can please God. Anyone coming near to God must believe God is true and that God blesses people wanting Him.

God warned NOAH about the future flood. NOAH didn’t-yet see that flood, but he believed, and he honored God and built the boat to save his family. Because NOAH did that, he judged the world as guilty, and he inherited righteousness through faith.

Through faith, ABRAHAM obeyed God’s call. God called him to leave home and travel to his future home. ABRAHAM didn’t know where he was going, no-matter, he went. Through faith, ABRAHAM lived in the promised land the same-as a stranger. ABRAHAM, ISAAC, and JACOB all had the same promise from God, and they all lived in tents. ABRAHAM was eager for the city with foundations, the city God built and made.

Through faith, God made SARAH able to become pregnant. No-matter she was too old, she believed and trusted God will do the same-as He promised. No-matter ABRAHAM was old and the same-as dead, ABRAHAM had many descendants, the same-as the stars in the sky or sand on the seashore. No one can count them all.

All these people died in faith. They didn’t get what God promised. But they saw God’s promise in the future, and they welcomed that. They believed they were strangers on earth and had no permanent home here.

People who talk that way show they are looking for their own country. If they loved the countries they left, they could always go back. But they wanted a better country, heaven. That is why God is named their God and He is not ashamed of that, because He prepared a city for them.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the Gospel lesson, a shorter reading from Luke 12 or a longer reading from Luke 12. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 12.

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

Jesus told His disciples, “I tell you, don’t worry about your life. Don’t worry about what you will eat, don’t worry about your body and what clothes to wear. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes.”

“Think about the birds. They don’t plant and they don’t harvest. They don’t put food in barns. But God feeds them. You are valuable much more than birds!”

“If you worry, that will make your life one hour longer? No. Then why worry about anything?”

“Think about the flowers and how they grow. They don’t work or make clothes. But I tell you, SOLOMON was a great king and glorious, but the flowers are clothed better than him.”

“Grass is alive today and tomorrow you use that for fire. If God clothes the grass with beautiful flowers, truly He will clothe you! You have little faith!”

“Don’t search-for what you will eat and drink. Don’t continue worrying. The nations in the world eagerly want those things. But your Father knows you need them. First eagerly want His kingdom, and He will give you these other things also.”

“Little sheep group, don’t fear. Your Father gladly gives you the kingdom. Sell your things and give the money to poor people. Make purses for yourselves that don’t wear-out, and get treasure that will never disappear. That treasure is in heaven. The treasure in heaven, no thief can touch that and no moth destroys. Where your treasure is, your heart is also there.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The longer reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 12.

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

Jesus told His disciples, “I tell you, don’t worry about your life. Don’t worry about what you will eat, don’t worry about your body and what clothes to wear. Life is more than food, and the body is more than clothes.”

“Think about the birds. They don’t plant and they don’t harvest. They don’t put food in barns. But God feeds them. You are valuable much more than birds!”

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“Little sheep group, don’t fear. Your Father gladly gives you the kingdom. Sell your things and give the money to poor people. Make purses for yourselves that don’t wear-out, and get treasure that will never disappear. That treasure is in heaven. The treasure in heaven, no thief can touch that and no moth destroys. Where your treasure is, your heart is also there.”

“Stay dressed and ready to work. Keep your LAMPS burning. You are the same-as men waiting for their master to come home from a wedding feast. When he comes and knocks-on-the-door, they are ready to open-the-door for him. When the master comes and finds those servants awake, bless them! The master will dress himself to serve them. The servants will sit at the table and the master will serve them. If he comes in the middle of the night or before sunrise and he finds them awake, bless those servants!”

“But know this. If the house master knows what time the thief will come, then the master will be-ready and not let the thief break-in. The same, you must be-ready. Because the Son of Man is coming at a time you don’t expect.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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