***Introit (Psalm 30)***

P: God, You made my crying become dancing.

**C: Lord my God, I will thank You forever!**

P: Lord my God, I cried-out to You for help,

**C: And You healed me.**

P: Lord, You brought-up my soul from the grave.

**C: From people going-down to the grave, You saved me and give-me life again.**

P: God’s holy people, sing praise to the Lord!

**C: Thank His holy name.**

P: His anger is short, but His favor continues all your life.

**C: Crying continues through the night, but joy comes in the morning.**

**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, You are the Good Shepherd. Without You, we are not safe. Save us and protect us, then we are not lost forever. Help us follow You and rejoice in Your life. 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 Ezekiel chapter 34.

 The Lord God says: "I will search and find My sheep. When sheep scatter, a shepherd goes out to search-for them. The same, I will search-for My sheep and save them from all places they scattered on that dark and sad day. My people are-scattered in other countries. I will bring them home to their own country. I will feed them again on the mountains, near the streams and towns in ISRAEL. Yes, I will give My sheep good food on the hills of ISRAEL. They will rest in peace and eat sweet food on the hills in ISRAEL. I Myself will be their Shepherd, and I will give them a place to rest," says the Lord God. "I will search-for My lost sheep and those sheep straying-away. I will comfort those hurting and heal the sick sheep. But I will destroy the fat and strong sheep. I will take-care of them the right way.”

 The Lord God says, “For you, My sheep, I will judge between one sheep and another sheep. I will judge between the rams and the male goats.”

 “Good pasture is not enough for you? You think you must walk in all the pasture and ruin that? Drinking clear water is not good enough for you? You think you must walk in all the water and make it dirty? You give the ruined pastures and dirty water for My sheep to eat and drink!”

 Therefore the Lord God says to them, “Look, I will judge between the fat sheep and thin sheep. You push with your side and you push with your shoulder. You use your horns against the weak sheep and scatter them.“

 “I will save My sheep. Then no one will attack them. I will judge between one sheep and another sheep. I will give them one Shepherd, My servant DAVID. He will feed them and be their one Shepherd. I am the Lord and I will be their God, and My servant DAVID will be their prince. I, the Lord, announce this."

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 1 Timothy 1 or a longer reading from 1 Timothy 1. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson from 1 Timothy chapter 1.

 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord because He gave-me strength for my work. I thank Him because He said I am faithful and chose me to serve Him. In the past I cursed Him, I persecuted Him, and I worked against Him. But God showed mercy to me because I not-yet believed, and I didn't-know the things I was doing. And God gave-me faith and love in Christ Jesus and His grace poured into me.

 This sentence is true and worthy for you to accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." And I am the worst sinner. But God showed mercy for this reason, because Christ can show His full patience with me, the worst sinner. That is an example for those people that later will believe in Him and receive eternal life. The King is the only God, eternal, never dying, INVISIBLE. Give-Him glory forever and ever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The New Testament lesson from 1 Timothy chapter 1.

 Our goal is love coming from a clean heart, a good conscience, and honest faith. Some people gave-up that. They talk about worthless things. They want to teach God’s law, but they don’t understand their own teaching. And they boast about their knowledge, but they don’t understand.

 We know the law is good, if you use it the right way. Understand this: God’s law is not for holy people. His law is for sinners and people who don’t obey; for people who don’t follow God, for sinners, for people following the world and not holy; for people who hit their parents, for murderers, for sexual sinners, and for homosexuals; His law is for people who make slaves, for liars and everything else against right teaching. That is what God’s good news says, and God gave me that good news.

 I thank Christ Jesus our Lord because He gave-me strength for my work. I thank Him because He said I am faithful and chose me to serve Him. In the past I cursed Him, I persecuted Him, and I worked against Him. But God showed mercy to me because I not-yet believed, and I didn't-know the things I was doing. And God gave-me faith and love in Christ Jesus and His grace poured into me.

 This sentence is true and worthy for you to accept it: "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." And I am the worst sinner. But God showed mercy for this reason, because Christ can show His full patience with me, the worst sinner. That is an example for those people that later will believe in Him and receive eternal life. The King is the only God, eternal, never dying, INVISIBLE. Give-Him glory forever and ever. Amen.

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 came near to hear Jesus. The PHARISEES and Law teachers complained about that. They said, “Jesus accepts sinners and eats with them.”

 Jesus told them this story: “Suppose a man has one hundred sheep, and one sheep becomes lost. That man will leave the ninety-nine sheep in the fields, and he will go and search-for the one sheep until he finds it. And happens he finds the sheep, he will put the sheep on his shoulders with happiness. The man comes home and invites his friends and neighbors and says, ‘Be-happy with me, because I found my lost sheep.’ And I tell you, more happiness is in heaven about one sinner that repents, than for ninety-nine righteous people not needing repentance.”

 “Or suppose one woman has ten coins and loses one. She takes a light and sweeps the whole house. She searches until she finds that coin. And happens she finds that coin, she invites her friends and neighbors and says, 'Be-happy with me, because I found my lost coin.’ I tell you, God’s angels in heaven are happy to see one sinner repent.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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