***Introit (Psalm 119)***

P: Your words are righteous forever.

**C: Give me understanding, then I can live.**

P: Lord, You are righteous,

**C: And Your laws are right.**

P: You gave us Your law in righteousness,

**C: And in all faithfulness.**

P: My desire for God controls me

**C: Because my enemies forget Your words.**

P: Your promise is always true,

**C: And Your servant loves Your promise.**

P: Your righteousness is right forever.

**C: And Your law is always true.**

**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: O Lord, continue showing mercy to Your Church. Without You we will fall. Always protect us from hurtful things, and lead us to Your good things that save us. 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 Amos chapter 8.

 Attend! You oppress poor people and ruin their lives. You say, “When will the new moon be finished, then we can sell food? When will the worship day be finished, then we can sell WHEAT. We will change prices and cheat and not measure food fairly. Then we can sell poor people same-as slaves, and exchange poor people for shoes, and sell garbage same-as food.”

 The Lord promised, “Truly I will never forget any of their terrible doings.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson from 1 Timothy chapter 2.

 First, I encourage you to pray for needs, pray in church, pray for other people, and thank God. Do that for all people. Do that for kings and all government people. Then we can have a quiet and peaceful life, following and honoring God in every way.

 That is good and pleasing to God, our Savior. He wants to save all people, and He wants all people to know His truth. There is one God, and one peacemaker between God and people. That peacemaker is the Man, Christ Jesus. Jesus gave Himself as a payment for all people. And the story about this payment came at the correct time.

 He made me a preacher and sent me to tell this story. I speak the truth; I don't lie. I teach the non-Jews in faith and truth.

 In every place, I want men to pray, and I want them to lift-up holy hands without anger or arguing. The same, women should wear proper clothing, with respect and self-control. They don’t make themselves beautiful with braided hair, gold, pearls, or expensive clothes. They make themselves beautiful with good works. That is right for women who follow God.

 Let a woman learn quietly and respect authority. I don’t let a woman teach or have authority over a man. She should be quiet.

 Because God made ADAM first, then EVE. And the devil didn’t fool ADAM. The devil fooled the woman and she sinned. But a woman will be saved through childbirth, if she continues in faith, love, holiness and self-control.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 16.

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

 Jesus told His disciples this story. A rich man had a house servant. That servant took-care-of the house and everything the rich man owned. People accused the servant and said he was wasting the rich man’s things. And the rich man called the servant and said, “What do I hear about you? Give-me an exact counting of your work, because you will no-longer take-care of my things.”

 The servant thought, “What will I do? My boss takes-away my work. I am not strong enough to dig. I feel ashamed to beg. I know what I will do. Then after my boss fires me, then people will accept me into their houses.”

 Many people owed the rich man. The servant called them all. He said to the first man, “How-much do you owe my boss?”

 The man answered, “Nine hundred GALLONS of oil.”

 And the chief servant said to him, “Take your bill and sit and write four hundred fifty GALLONS.”

 Then the servant said to another man, “How-much do you owe?”

 The man answered, “One thousand BUSHELS of WHEAT.”

 And the servant said to him, “Take your bill and write eight hundred.”

 And the rich man praised the lying servant, because he was smart to take-care of himself. Because unbelievers know better than God’s people how to work with other unbelievers.

 And I say to you, use your money and things to make friends for yourselves, then after that money is all-gone, they will accept you into their eternal homes.

 The person that takes-care-of not important things will also take-care-of really important things. And the person not honest about little things, will not be-honest about really important things. Now, if you don’t take-care-of earthly money the right way, who will trust you to take-care-of true spiritual riches? And if you don’t take-care-of things belonging to another person, who will give you anything for yourself?

 No servant can obey two bosses. He will hate one boss and love the other boss. Or he will follow the one boss and ignore the other boss. You can’t attend to God and to money.

 The PHARISEES loved money. They listened to Jesus’ words and they mocked Him.

 Jesus said to them, “You try to make people think you are good. But God knows your hearts. The things people think are important, God hates those things.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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