***Introit (Psalm 119)***

P: Let Your continuing love comfort me,

**C: The same-as You promised Your servant.**

P: Your hands made me.

**C: Give-me understanding, then I can learn Your commandments.**

P: People honoring You will see me and be happy,

**C: Because I hope in Your word.**

P: Lord, I know Your commands are righteous,

**C: And Your faithful love tests me.**

P: Give-me Your mercy, then I can live.

**C: Because I am happy with 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: O God, for everyone who trusts You, You are their strength. Without Your help, we are not able to do anything good. Please give us Your grace, then we can live pleasing You, in what we want and what we do. 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 6.

Bad news for you people resting in JERUSALEM and for you people feeling safe on the mountain in SAMARIA. You important men in the most important nation, the people of ISRAEL trust you, but bad news for you!

Go to the cities named CALNEH and HAMATH. Visit the city named GATH in the country named PHILISTIA. Are you better than those countries? Or is their country larger than your country?

You think judgment day is a long time in the future. You let evil things continue happening now.

Bad news for you lying on expensive and comfortable beds. You eat your lambs and CALVES. You listen to sweet music and same-as DAVID you invent new music. You drink wine from large bowls, and you pour expensive perfume on yourself. But JOSEPH’s family gets destroyed and you don’t grieve about that.

You will be the first people taken to a far-away country, and your party time will end.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the New Testament lesson, a reading from 1 Timothy chapter 3 and a reading from 1 Timothy chapter 6. Choose one.*

*The first choice.*

The New Testament lesson from 1 Timothy chapter 3.

This saying is true: if someone wants to be a pastor, he wants an honorable job. The pastor must be a good man and people have no serious complaints against him. He should have only one wife. He should not be full of desires. He should be self-controlled and people respect him. The pastor should take-care-of visitors, be able to teach, not a drunk, not VIOLENT. He should be gentle, not argue, and not love money.

The pastor must take-care-of his own family well. His children should respect and obey him. If he doesn’t know how to take-care-of his family, how can he take-care-of God’s church?

He can’t be a new Christian, or he might become proud and God will judge him the same as God judged the devil. He must have a good reputation with unbelievers. Then he will not shame himself and the devil won’t trap him.

DEACONS should also be men who earn respect. They should be honest, not drinking much wine, and not selfishly helping themselves. They must believe the deep truth of the faith with a clean conscience. Test them first. If there is nothing against them, then let them serve as DEACONS.

The same, the women should earn respect. They should not be gossipers. They should not be full of desires. They should be faithful in everything.

A DEACON should have only one wife and take-care-of his children and family. Anyone who serves well has an important job and much courage in their faith in Christ Jesus.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The second choice.*

The New Testament lesson from 1 Timothy chapter 6.

Following God is good if you are also satisfied with your things. Happen we were-born, we had nothing; happens we die, we take nothing with us. If we have food and clothes, we will be-satisfied with that.

If people want riches, then they get tempted and trapped. They want foolish and hurtful things that will destroy them. Loving money is the beginning of evil. Some people loved money and they wandered-away from God and filled their life with many troubles.

But you, man of God, run-away from those things. You want and work for righteousness, following God, faith, love, patience and gentleness. Fight the good war of faith. God called you to eternal life and you announced that in-front-of many people. Hold-on to that eternal life.

God gives life to everything, and Christ Jesus stood in-front-of PONTIUS PILATE and spoke the truth. Now I command you in-front-of God and in-front-of Jesus, you obey God's commands, without blame and free from shame, until our Lord Jesus Christ comes again. At the correct time God will show Jesus to us. He is the blessed and only Ruler. He is the King above kings and Lord above lords. He lives forever. No one can come near and no one past saw Him or can see Him. Give Him honor and power forever. Amen.

Tell rich people they should not be proud. They should not trust their money. They should trust God. He gives us everything good for us to enjoy.

People should do good. They shouldn’t be rich with money; they should be rich with good works and giving and sharing with people. That will build-up good treasure for themselves for the future. Then they can keep true life.

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.

One rich man dressed himself in purple and expensive clothes and feasted much every day. And one poor man, named LAZARUS, lay in-front-of the rich man’s door. And his body was full with sores. And he wanted to eat the CRUMBS from the rich man’s table. Also the dogs came and licked his sores.

Later the poor man died, and angels carried him to be with ABRAHAM. Also the rich man died and got buried. And in hell the rich man suffered much, and he looked-up and he saw ABRAHAM far-away and LAZARUS with ABRAHAM.

And the rich man called, “Father ABRAHAM, show mercy to me and send LAZARUS to dip-his-finger in water and cool my tongue, because I suffer in this fire.”

ABRAHAM said to him, “Son, remember you received your good things during your life, and LAZARUS received bad things in his life. But now he is in comfort here, and you suffer there. And also, God made a large separation between you and us. No one can go from here to you, and no one can go from you to us.”

Then the rich man said, “I beg you, father ABRAHAM, send LAZARUS to my father’s house. Because I have five brothers. Then LAZARUS can warn them, and they will not come to this place of suffering.”

ABRAHAM said, “Your brothers have MOSES and the prophets. Let your brothers hear those words.”

But he answered, “No, father ABRAHAM, but if someone rises from the dead and goes to them, then my brothers will repent.”

But ABRAHAM said to him, “If they don’t attend to MOSES and the prophets, then they will not believe if someone rises from the dead.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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