***Introit (Psalm 56)***

P: When I am afraid,

**C: I will trust You.**

P: I will trust God. I praise His word.

**C: I will trust the Lord. I praise His word.**

P: I trust God and I will not fear.

**C: What can people do against me?**

P: God, I will do the same-as I promised.

**C: I will give You thank offerings.**

P: Because You saved my soul from death. You saved me from falling.

**C: Then I can walk in-front-of God in the light of 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: Almighty and eternal God, You are always ready to hear our prayer. You are always ready to give more than we ask or deserve. Give us Your great mercy. Our sins make us afraid; please forgive those sins. Give us Your good gifts. We ask only because of Jesus and His work to 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 Genesis chapter 4.

ADAM slept with his wife EVE. She became pregnant and gave-birth to CAIN. She said, “I got a man from the Lord.” She gave-birth again to his brother ABEL. ABEL took-care of sheep, but CAIN grew plants for food.

Later, CAIN brought an offering to the Lord. He brought food that he grew. ABEL also brought his firstborn sheep and their fat parts. The Lord accepted ABEL and his offering. But God didn’t accept CAIN and his offering. Then CAIN became very angry and upset.

The Lord asked CAIN, “Why are you angry? Why are you upset? If you do right, then I will accept you. If you don’t do right, then sin is waiting for you. Sin wants to control you, but you must control sin.”

CAIN talked to his brother ABEL. When they were in the field, CAIN attacked his brother ABEL and killed him. Then the Lord asked CAIN, “Where is your brother ABEL?”

CAIN answered, “I don’t know. I must take-care of my brother?”

The Lord said, “What did you do? Your brother’s blood is calling to Me from the ground. Now I will punish you and you can’t work with the ground. You killed your brother and the ground accepted his blood. Now when you plant, nothing will grow for you. You will become homeless and wander around.”

CAIN said to the Lord, “My punishment is too much for me! You are sending me away, and I will not see Your face. I will be homeless and wander around. If someone finds me, they will kill me.”

The Lord told him, “If anyone kills CAIN, he will get punished seven times more.” The Lord put a sign on CAIN to protect him, then no one will kill him.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 2 Timothy chapter 4.

I am now giving my life the same-as a sacrifice. Now it is time for me to leave this life. I finished the good fight. I finished the race. I continued faithful to God.

Now the Lord, the righteous judge, is waiting to give-me a crown in heaven on that last day. And not only for me, but God will give a crown to all those people loving Him coming.

The first time I must defend myself, no one came to help me. Everyone left me. I pray that God will forgive them. But the Lord stayed with me and gave-me strength. Then I could finish my preaching and all the non-Jews can hear the message. God saved me from the lion's mouth.

The Lord will save me from every evil plan, and He will bring me into His heavenly kingdom. Give God glory forever. Amen.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 18.

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

Jesus told this story to some people that thought they were good and looked-down-their-nose at other people.

Jesus said, “Two men went to the temple to pray. One man was a PHARISEE and the other man was a TAX collector.

The PHARISEE stood alone and prayed, ‘God, I thank You that I am not the same-as other people; robbers, wrongdoers, people doing sex sins, or bad the same-as that TAX collector. Twice a week I don’t eat and I give the church one tenth of all my things.’

But the TAX collector stood far-away and would not look-up to heaven, but in sorrow he beat-his-chest and said, ‘God show mercy to me. I am a sinner.’

This TAX collector went home and God forgave him, but God didn’t forgive the PHARISEE. Every person boasting, God will make him humble. And every person humble, God will lift-up.”

People were bringing babies to Jesus for Him to touch them. When the disciples saw that, they stopped the people. But Jesus told the people to bring the babies. Jesus said, “Let the children come to Me. Don’t stop them. The kingdom of God belongs to people the same-as them. I tell you the truth. If a person doesn’t receive God’s kingdom the same-as a child, he will not enter God’s kingdom.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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