***Introit (Psalm 50)***

P: The person who gives a sacrifice of thanks gives Me glory.

**C: God will give salvation for the person doing right.**

P: The Mighty One, God the Lord, speaks.

**C: He calls the earth from sunrise to sunset.**

P: From Jerusalem, perfect beauty,

**C: God shines.**

P: Give God a sacrifice of thanks.

**C: And do the same-as you promised God.**

P: On the day of trouble, call-to Me.

**C: I will save you and you will give Me glory.**

**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, make Your faithful people eager and joyful to welcome Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Make us ready and right for Him to live in us. 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 Isaiah chapter 1.

 You people reigning in the city named SODOM, attend the Lord’s word! You people in the city named GOMORRAH, attend to God’s teaching!

 The Lord said, “Your many sacrifices mean nothing to Me. I am tired of you burnt offerings of rams and fat from animals. Blood from bulls, lambs and goats does not make Me happy.

 When you come to Me, who told you to run-around in My house? Don’t bring worthless offerings. Your incense insults Me. You celebrate the new moon, worship day, and special meetings. I can’t accept your sin and meetings. I hate your new moon celebrations and feasts. They burden Me. I am tired of them.”

 “When you hold-up your hands, I will look-away. No-matter you say many prayers, I will not listen to you. Your hands are full of blood.

 Wash yourselves. Make yourselves clean. Stop doing your evil in-front-of Me. Stop doing evil. Learn to do good. You should want to do right. Don’t let people hurt each-other. Do right for children having no fathers. Protect widows.”

 The Lord says, “Come, let us think-about this together. No-matter your sins are bright red, they will become white the same-as snow. No-matter they are dark red, they will become white the same-as wool.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the New Testament reading; a shorter reading from 2 Thessalonians 1 and a longer reading from 2 Thessalonians 1. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 2 Thessalonians chapter 1.

 This letter is from PAUL, SILAS, and TIMOTHY.

 To the church in the city THESSALONICA, to you people belonging to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

 Dear Christians, we always thank God for you. That is right to do, because your faith is growing much, and you love each-other more and more. That is why we boast about you in God’s churches. We tell about your continuing faith and how you suffer persecution and trouble but you don’t give-up.

 That shows God’s judgment is right. God will say you belong to His kingdom. You are suffering for His kingdom now.

 This is why we always pray for you. We ask God to make you His precious people, and with His power to help you do every good work of faith. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will have glory in you, and you can have glory in Jesus. The grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ will do that.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 2 Thessalonians chapter 1.

 This letter is from PAUL, SILAS, and TIMOTHY.

 To the church in the city THESSALONICA, to you people belonging to God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

 Dear Christians, we always thank God for you. That is right to do, because your faith is growing much, and you love each-other more and more. That is why we boast about you in God’s churches. We tell about your continuing faith and how you suffer persecution and trouble but you don’t give-up.

 That shows God’s judgment is right. God will say you belong to His kingdom. You are suffering for His kingdom now.

 God says this is His right judgment. He will punish those people who hurt you, and He will comfort you and us in our suffering. That will happen when the Lord Jesus comes from heaven with His powerful angels and fire. He will get revenge against those people who don’t know God and people who don’t obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

 They will suffer punishment in eternal destruction. They will be away from the Lord and His powerful glory. That will happen on the day Jesus comes to get glory with His holy people. All those people who believed Him will worship Him, because you believed our message.

 This is why we always pray for you. We ask God to make you His precious people, and with His power to help you do every good work of faith. Then the name of our Lord Jesus will have glory in you, and you can have glory in Jesus. The grace of our God and Lord Jesus Christ will do that.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 19.

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

 Jesus entered the town named JERICHO and He walked through the city.

 A man named ZACCHAEUS lived in that town. He was a boss TAX collector, and he was a rich man. ZACCHAEUS wanted to see Jesus, but he was short man, and he couldn't see because of the large crowd around Jesus. ZACCHAEUS ran ahead and climbed a tree to see Jesus, because Jesus will walk near that tree.

 Happened Jesus came to that tree, Jesus looked-up and said, “ZACCHAEUS, come-down. Today I must visit your house.” ZACCHAEUS hurried-down and happily welcomed Jesus.

 But all the people began to complain. “Jesus visits the house of that sinful man.”

 ZACCHAEUS stood-up and said to Jesus, “Lord, half of my things I will give to the poor people. And if I cheated anyone, I will pay back four times the money.”

 Jesus said, “Today salvation came to this house. Because ZACCHAEUS is also a son of ABRAHAM. The Son of Man came to seek and to save lost people.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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