***Introit (Psalm 121)***

P: Heaven and earth will disappear.

**C: But My words will not disappear.**

P: I look at the hills.

**C: My help is from where?**

P: My help comes from the Lord.

**C: He made heaven and earth.**

P: The Lord takes-care of you.

**C: The Lord is your comfort and protector.**

P: The Lord will protect you from all evil.

**C: He will take-care of your life.**

P: The Lord will take-care of you going out and coming in,

**C: From now and forever.**

**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, Almighty and always-living God, You gave great and precious promises to people who trust You. Reign and lead our hearts and minds with Your Holy Spirit. Then we can continue to live forever in Your Son. 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 Malachi chapter 4.

The Lord of Armies says, “Watch! That day will happen, burning the same-as an oven. All the proud people and every evil person will be the same-as straw. That day will burn them. They will have no-more roots or branches. But you people who honor My name, the righteous sun will shine to give healing to My people. You will run and jump the same-as calves from the barn. You will defeat the wicked people. On that day when God judges, the wicked people will be ashes that you walk on.” The Lord of Armies says this.

“Remember the law from My servant MOSES, also the commands and rules that I gave him on Mount HOREB to give to all Israel. Look, I will send ELIJAH the prophet for you. He will come before that great and terrible day of the Lord happens. He will make the fathers love their children again, and make the children love their fathers again. If that doesn’t happen, I will come and punish the earth with a curse.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the New Testament lesson, a shorter reading from 2 Thessalonians 3 and a longer reading from 2 Thessalonians 3. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson is from 2 Thessalonians chapter 3.

Christian friends, now we command you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, stay away from anyone that doesn’t live and work agreeing with our teaching. You know you must follow our example. When we were with you, we weren’t lazy. We didn’t accept free meals, but day and night we worked hard because we didn’t-want to burden you. We had the right to receive support, but we wanted to be good examples for you. While we were with you, we gave you this command. If someone will not work, he should not eat.

We heard that some people are lazy, not working, but only pretend they are busy. We encourage and command those people in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ that they work humble and earn their own food. Christian friends, don’t become tired of doing good things.

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 3.

Brothers and sisters, pray for us. Pray that people will quickly learn and honor the Lord’s word, the same-as happened with you. And pray that God will save us from evil men. Because not everyone has faith. But the Lord is faithful. He will make you strong and protect you from the devil. We trust the Lord will take-care of you, that He will help you continue doing the things we tell you. The Lord will lead your hearts to the love of God and continuing strength of Christ.

Christian friends, now we command you in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, stay away from anyone that doesn’t live and work agreeing with our teaching. You know you must follow our example. When we were with you, we weren’t lazy. We didn’t accept free meals, but day and night we worked hard because we didn’t-want to burden you. We had the right to receive support, but we wanted to be good examples for you. While we were with you, we gave you this command. If someone will not work, he should not eat.

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This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the Gospel lesson, a shorter reading from Luke 21 and a longer reading from Luke 21. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 21.

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

Some of Jesus’ disciples began talking about the beautiful temple and the large stones and offerings. Jesus said, “The day will happen that all these things you see will get destroyed and every stone torn-down, not one stone left on top of another stone.”

His disciples asked, “Teacher, when will that happen? How will we know?”

Jesus answered, “Don’t let anyone fool you. Many people will come using My name saying, ‘I am Christ. The time is ready.’ Don’t listen to them. When you hear about wars and rebellions, don’t be-afraid because these things must happen, but the end of the world is not-yet.”

Then Jesus said, “Nations will war against nations, and one kingdom against another kingdom. You will see big earthquakes, hungers and sicknesses, terrible fears and things happening in the sky. Before that happens, people will arrest you and persecute you. They will judge you in Jewish churches, throw you in prison, and bring you in-front-of kings and governors, all because you follow Me.”

“That means you will have an opportunity to witness. Don’t think and plan how you will defend yourself. I will give you the right words and wisdom to speak, then your enemies can’t stop you or argue against you. Also, your parents, brothers, family, and friends will betray you, and they will kill some of you. All people will hate you because you follow Me. But you will not lose one hair on your head. Continue patient in faith and you will keep true life.”

“But when you see armies surround JERUSALEM, then understand that soon they will destroy JERUSALEM. At that time, people in JUDEA should escape to the mountains. People in the city should leave. People in the country should not go into the city. Those days are for revenge, to make the prophecies happen.”

“At that time, it will be terrible for women pregnant or having small babies. There will be terrible suffering on the earth and punishment for the people. The sword will kill many, and many other people will become prisoners in other nations. The non-Jews will defeat JERUSALEM until their time of power ends.”

“Signs will appear in the sun and moon and stars. On the earth, the nations will be worried, because the sea and waves are out of control. People will faint in fear because of what is happening in the world. The powerful things in the sky will shake. Then people will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud and having power and great glory. When these things begin to happen, stand tall and look up. The time God saves you is soon.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The longer reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 21.

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Jesus gave them an example. He said, “Look at the FIG tree and all trees. When they begin growing leaves, you know summer comes soon. The same, when you see all these things happen, you know the kingdom of God comes soon. I tell you the truth, this generation will not disappear until everything happens. Heaven and earth will disappear, but My words will not disappear.”

“But watch yourselves! Don’t do foolish things, don’t get drunk, don’t worry about this life. That will burden your heart, and that day will surprise you the same-as a trap. That will happen to all people on earth. Always stay awake. Pray for strength to escape all the things that will happen, and pray for strength to stand in-front-of the Son of Man.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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