***Introit (Psalm 134)***

P: Let all the earth honor the Lord.

**C: Let all people in the world stand amazed.**

P: All you servants of the Lord, come and bless the Lord.

**C: All you who stay in the Lord’s house at night, bless him.**

P: Lift-up-your-hands to the holy place,

**C: And bless the Lord!**

P: May the Lord bless you from Jerusalem.

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

**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 Jesus Christ, You reign among us with the preaching about Your cross. Forgive us for our sins. Then Your mercy and goodness will take-care of us until we enter Your kingdom and live with You forever. 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 3.

 The Lord says, “You people insulted Me. But you say, ‘How did we speak against God?’ You said, ‘Serving God is worthless. When we obey His commandments or mourn and cry in-front-of the Almighty Lord, that doesn’t help us! So now we say proud people are blessed. People who do evil things succeed and are strong. They challenge God and He doesn’t punish them.”

 Then the people who honored the Lord met together and talked. The Lord saw that and listened to them. He wrote a book to remember all those people who honor the Lord and His name.

 The Almighty Lord said, “When I gather My special people, they will be My people. I will save them the same-as a man saves a son who serves him. You will again see the difference between the righteous people and wicked people. You will see the difference between a person who serves God and a person who does not serve God.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Colossians chapter 1.

 God the Father saved us from the power of sin and the devil, and He brought us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Because of Jesus, we have salvation, forgiveness for our sins.

 When you see Jesus, you are looking at God. Christ is above all things that God made. God made all things through Christ, all things in heaven and on earth, things we see and can’t see, all powers on earth and spiritual powers. God made all things through Jesus and for Jesus.

 Jesus lived before the world began. And Jesus takes-care-of the world now. Christ is the head for the body, the church. Jesus Himself is the beginning, He arose from the dead first. That means now He reigns over everything. The true God lives in Jesus. God made peace with the world when His Son died on the cross. God made peace with all things in heaven and on earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 23.

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

 Many people followed them, and some of the women were-sad and crying for Jesus. But Jesus said to the women, “Women from JERUSALEM, don’t cry for Me. Cry for yourselves and for your children! The time will happen that people say, ‘Happy are women without babies! Happy are women that never gave-birth and nursed babies. Then the people will say to the mountains, ‘Fall on us!’ And the people will say to the hills, ‘Cover us!’ If people do these things when life is good, what will happen when life is bad?”

 The soldiers also led two other robbers to get crucified with Jesus. The soldiers led them to the place named “The SKULL.” Then the soldiers crucified Jesus. They also crucified the robbers, one robber was-crucified on the right, and one crucified on the left, with Jesus in the center.

 Jesus said, “Father, forgive these people because they don’t-know what they are-doing.” The soldiers threw-dice to divide Jesus’ clothes.

 The people stood and watched Jesus. The Jewish church leaders laughed and said, “If He is God’s Chosen One, the Christ, then let Him save Himself. He saved other people, correct?”

 The soldiers also mocked Jesus. They offered wine to Jesus and said, “If You are the king of the Jews, save Yourself!” A sign above Jesus said, “This is the King of the Jews.”

 One of the robbers crucified with Jesus insulted Him: “Are You the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”

 But the other robber corrected him and said, “You don’t honor God? We all get the same punishment. You and I deserve to get punished because we did wrong. But Jesus did nothing wrong.” Then the robber said to Jesus, “Jesus, remember me in Your kingdom!”

 Then Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, today you will be with Me in heaven!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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