***Introit (Psalm 25)***

P: Who is the man honoring the Lord?

**C: God will teach that man the way He wants.**

P: The Lord is good and right.

**C: The Lord teaches sinners His right way.**

P: He leads humble people to do right.

**C: He teaches humble people His way.**

P: The Lord’s paths are all love and faithfulness

**C: For people who love and do His commands.**

P: Lord, because of Your name,

**C: Forgive my many sins.**

**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 God, in Your mercy guide this world. Then we can forgive people the same-as You forgive us, and we can serve You in joy and peace. 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 50.

JOSEPH’S father (JACOB) died. Then JOSEPH’S brothers said to each other, “What if JOSEPH hates us and plans revenge against us because we did wrong against him?” The brothers sent a message to JOSEPH: “Before our father died, he told us to ask you, ‘Please forgive your brothers and their sin. They did evil against you.’ Now please forgive our sin. We are the servants of your father’s God.” JOSEPH heard the message and he cried. Then JOSEPH’S brothers came and bowed-down in-front-of JOSEPH and said, “We are your servants.”

 JOSEPH said to his brothers, “Don’t fear. I am not same-as God to punish you. You planned evil against me, but God changed that to do good, to save many people’s lives. And they are alive today. Don’t fear. I myself will take-care-of you and your children.” JOSEPH comforted his brothers with kind words.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Acts chapter 2.

 Then PETER stood-up with the eleven apostles and spoke to all the people. “All people in ISRAEL should know this. Jesus, the one you crucified, God made Him Lord and Christ.”

 The people heard that and felt very guilty. They asked PETER and the other apostles, “Brothers, what must we do?”

 PETER answered, “Everyone repent and get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This promise is for you and for your children, and to people in other nations, to every person our Lord calls.”

 And PETER continued to teach and encourage them much. He said, “Become saved from these evil people.” Then the people that believed PETER’s message got baptized. On that day God added about 3,000 people to the church.

 The believers truly followed the apostles’ teaching, fellowship, breaking bread, and praying together. The apostles did many wonderful works, and everyone was amazed. All the believers were together and shared everything. They sold the things they owned and then divided the money and gave to anyone who needed it. Every day, the believers met together in the temple. They ate together in their homes, happy to share their food with joyful hearts. They praised God and all the people liked them. Every day the Lord saved more people and made the church grow.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the Gospel lesson; a shorter reading from Luke 7 and a longer reading from Luke 7. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 6.

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

 Jesus said, “I tell you, love your enemies. If someone hates you, do good to them. If people curse you, bless them. If people abuse you, pray for them. If someone hits your cheek, let him hit your other cheek also. If someone takes your coat, let him take your shirt also. If someone asks for something, give. If someone takes from you, don’t take it back. You do for other people the same way you want other people to do to you.”

 “If you love people who love you, how is that good? Sinners also love people who love them. If you give to people who will pay you back, how is that good? Sinners do the same.”

 “But you love your enemies. Do good. Give and don’t expect them to pay you back. Then your reward will be great. You will be God’s children. People are evil and not thankful, but God Himself shows kindness to them. You show mercy the same-as your heavenly Father shows mercy.”

 “Don’t judge, and you will not get judged. Don’t criticize, and you won’t get criticized. Forgive, and you will get forgiveness. Give, and you will receive. You will receive a large amount, overflowing. The way you measure, you will get measured the same.”

 Jesus told the people this story. “Can a blind man lead another blind man? No, because both will fall into a hole. A student is not over the teacher. But when the student learns everything, he will become the same-as the teacher.”

 “Why do you see the dust in your brother’s eye, but you don’t see the log in your own eye? You tell your brother, ‘Let me take the dust out of your eye.’ But you don’t see the log in your eye. You hypocrite! First take-out the log from your eye. Then you can see clearly to take-out the dust from your brother’s eye.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The longer reading.*

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 6.

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

 Jesus looked at His disciples and said, “You who are poor, God blesses you, because the kingdom of God belongs to you. You who are hungry now, God blesses you, because you will be satisfied. You who cry now, God blesses you, because you will laugh.”

 “When you follow the Son of Man and people hate you, reject you, insult you, and name you evil because you follow Me, then God blesses you. When that happens, rejoice and jump with joy, because your reward in heaven is great. Long ago, their fathers abused the prophets the same.”

 “But terrible for you rich people! You already have your comfort. Terrible for you who have much to eat now! You will become hungry. Terrible for you who laugh now! You will grieve and cry. Terrible for you when all people say good things about you! Long ago, their fathers said good things about the false prophets.”

 Jesus said, “I tell you, love your enemies. If someone hates you, do good to them. If people curse you, bless them. If people abuse you, pray for them. If someone hits your cheek, let him hit your other cheek also. If someone takes your coat, let him take your shirt also. If someone asks for something, give. If someone takes from you, don’t take it back. You do for other people the same way you want other people to do to you.”

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