***Introit (Psalm 25)***

P: To You, Lord,

**C: I lift-up my soul.**

P: My God, I trust You. Don’t let people shame me.

**C: Don’t let my enemies win and rejoice.**

P: Come to me and show mercy to me.

**C: I am lonely and troubled.**

P: I have many troubles in my heart.

**C: Save me from my suffering.**

P: Think about my troubles

**C: And forgive all my sins.**

P: Protect me and save me!

**C: Don’t let people shame me, because I find safety in You.**

**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, fill us with Your gifts of faith, hope and love. Then we will have the forgiveness You promise, and we will love Your commands. 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 2 Samuel chapters 11 and 12.

When URIAH’s wife heard that her husband URIAH died, she cried for her husband. When she finished grieving, King DAVID took her into his home and married her. They had a son. But the Lord was not happy with what DAVID did.

The Lord sent the prophet NATHAN to DAVID. NATHAN said, “Two men lived in a city. One man was rich and the other man was poor. The rich man had many sheep and cows. The poor man only had one female lamb he bought and raised. The lamb grew up with the poor man and his children. The lamb ate with him and drank from his cup. The lamb rested in his arms and was the same-as a daughter. Then another man visited the rich man. The rich man didn’t use his own sheep or cows to feed the visitor. He took the poor man’s lamb and used that to feed his visitor.”

DAVID became very angry. He told NATHAN, “The same-as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! He must pay back four times for the lamb, because he took the lamb and he showed no mercy.”

NATHAN told DAVID, “You are the man! The Lord, the God of ISRAEL says this: ‘I anointed you king of ISRAEL and saved you from SAUL. I gave you control over SAUL’s family and wives. I gave you all the people of ISRAEL and JUDAH. And I can give you more than that. Why do you hate the Lord’s words? Why do you sin against the Lord? You killed URIAH and you married his wife. You used the AMMONITE people to kill URIAH. Now your family will always be full of murder because you hated Me and married URIAH’s wife.”

DAVID said, “I sinned against the Lord.”

NATHAN told DAVID, “The Lord took away your sin. You will not die. But your actions insult the Lord. Therefore, your son will die.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson from Galatians chapters 2 and 3.

We were born Jews and not sinners. But we know that obeying the law can’t make a person become righteous. God makes a person righteous only through faith in Christ Jesus. The same, we Jews believe in Jesus Christ, and faith in Jesus makes us righteous. Obeying the law doesn’t make us righteous, because obeying the law can’t make any person righteous.

We want to be righteous in Christ. If we are sinners the same-as non-Jews, does that mean Christ encourages us to sin? Never! But if I destroy and then build up again, I prove that I am a sinner. The law killed me so now I am finished with the law and I can live for God. I got crucified with Christ. Now I don’t live, but Christ lives in me. My life now I live through faith in Jesus; He loved me and gave-up Himself for me. I don’t reject God’s grace. Understand, if we can obey the law and become righteous that way, then Christ died for nothing.

If someone tries to do God’s law, the law will punish that person. The Bible says, “Curse everyone who doesn’t live and do everything written in the Law Book.” The Law makes no one righteous in-front-of God. That is clear, because the Bible says, “The righteous person will live because of faith.” But the law and faith are not the same. The Bible says about the Law, “The person who does the Law will live because of the law.”

Christ saved us from the Law curse. Jesus became a curse in our place. The Bible says, “God curses (punishes) every person hanged on a tree.” Because of Jesus, ABRAHAM’s blessing is also for non-Jews. Then we receive the Spirit that God promises through faith.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapters 7 and 8.

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

A PHARISEE invited Jesus to eat with him. Jesus went to the PHARISEE’s house and sat down to eat. A sinful woman lived in that town. She found out Jesus was at the PHARISEE’s house. She brought a bottle of perfume and stood near His feet. She cried and made Jesus’ feet wet with her tears. Then she dried His feet with her hair. She kissed Jesus’ feet and poured perfume on them.

The PHARISEE saw this happen and said to himself, “If Jesus is a true prophet, He will know about this woman. He will know she’s a sinner.”

Jesus said to him, “SIMON, I want to tell you something.”

SIMON said, “Teacher, tell me.”

Jesus said, “Two people owed a man some money. One person owed $50,000, and the other person owed $5,000. Both couldn’t pay back, and the man forgave their debts. Which person will love more?”

SIMON answered, “The person who had the larger debt forgiven, that person will love more.”

Jesus said, “You are right. Do you see this woman? I entered your house, and you didn’t give Me water for My feet. But she made My feet wet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You did not welcome Me with a kiss, but this woman continues to kiss My feet. You didn’t pour oil on My head, but she poured perfume on My feet. I tell you, she sinned much, but her sins are all forgiven. You see she loves much. If someone gets forgiven only a little, he loves only a little.”

Then Jesus told the woman, “I forgive your sins.” The other visitors asked themselves, “Who is He? He forgives sins?”

Jesus told the woman, “Your faith saved you. Go in peace!”

Soon after that, Jesus traveled from city to city. He preached and announced God’s kingdom. The 12 disciples went with Jesus. Jesus healed some women from demons and sickness and now the women traveled with Jesus. The women were: MARY MAGDALENE, Jesus threw-out 7 demons from her;

JOANNA, the wife of CHUZA, HEROD’s servant;

SUSANNA;

Many other women, all supporting Jesus from their own money.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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