***Introit (Psalm 71)***

P: God, You are my protection. I can always go to You.

**C: You promised to save me, because You are my strength and protection.**

P: You made me experience many troubles, but You will make me live again.

**C: From the ground You will raise me again.**

P: You will make me great again.

**C: You will comfort me again.**

P: God, I will praise You with music because You are faithful.

**C: Holy God of Israel, I will sing praises to You.**

P: I will sing praises to You and shout with joy.

**C: My soul will praise You because You saved me.**

P: All day I will announce Your righteous help.

**C: Because people tried to hurt me, but You shamed them and stopped them.**

**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 God, You prepared great things above our understanding for people who love You. Throw-out all sin and evil desires. Give-us Your Holy Spirit to guide us into all Your blessings. 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 Isaiah chapter 65.

God said: Those people didn’t ask-for Me. But I let them search-for Me. Those people didn’t search-for Me. But I let them find Me. This nation didn’t call-for Me. But I told them, “Here I am! Here I am!”

All day, I held-out-My-hands to rebellious people. Their lives are bad. They follow their own ideas. They always insult Me. They sacrifice in gardens and they burn incense on bricks. They sit in graves and at night they stay in secret places. They eat pigs and unclean meat. They say, “Stay away! Don’t come near me. I am more holy than you!” They are the same-as smoke in My nose, a fire that burns all day.

Look, this is written and decided. I will not be quiet. I will pay them. I will punish them for their sins and their fathers’ sins. The Lord announces this. On the mountains they sacrificed, and on the hills they insulted Me. So I will punish them for their actions.

The Lord announces this. A bunch of grapes gives new wine. A person says, “Don’t destroy the grapes! They are still good!” The same, I will protect My servants and not destroy all of them. I will bring children from Jacob, and people from Judah will inherit My mountains. My chosen people will inherit that, and My servants will live there.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson from Galatians chapters 3 and 4.

Before faith came, the law ruled us. The law kept us in prison, waiting for faith to come. The law took-care-of us until Christ came. Now we can become righteous through faith. Now faith is here and the law no-longer takes-care-of us.

In Christ Jesus, you are sons of God, through faith. Because all of you got baptized in Christ’s name, Jesus Himself clothes you. Now you are not Jew or Greek, no slave or free person, no man or woman - you are all one the same in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham’s children, and God promises you will get an inheritance from Him.

When an heir is a child, he owns everything, but at the same time he is the same-as a slave. People take-care of him until his father says he is old enough. The same, we were children. The laws in this world kept us slaves. At the right time, God sent His Son, born from a woman, born to obey the law.

The law controls all people, and Jesus came to save us and to adopt us as God’s sons. And because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit from His Son into our hearts. The Holy Spirit shouts, “Daddy, Father.” Now, you are no-more a slave. You are God’s sons. And because you are His sons, you will receive an inheritance from God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 8.

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

Jesus and the disciples sailed to the country named GERASENES, across the SEA of GALILEE. They arrived. Jesus went out of the boat and met a man from the city. Many demons lived in that man. For a long time he had no clothes. He didn’t live in a house; he lived in tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell-down in-front-of Jesus and shouted, “What do you want from me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t punish me.” Jesus was commanding the demon to come-out from the man. The demon often controlled him. People used chains to tie him up, but he broke the chains and the demon forced him into the desert.

Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “LEGION,” because many demons lived in him. They begged Jesus not to command them to go into the deep pit.

On that mountain many pigs were eating. The demons begged Jesus to let them enter the pigs. Jesus let them. The demons left the man and entered the pigs. All the pigs ran down the hill into the lake and drowned.

The men taking-care of the pigs saw what happened. They ran and told people in the city and country what happened. The people came and saw Jesus and the man now healed from the demons. The man now sat near Jesus, wearing clothes, in his right mind. The people became afraid. They heard the story how the man became healthy. All the people from that area asked Jesus to leave because they were all very afraid.

Jesus got into the boat and left. Before He left, the healed man begged, he wanted to go with Jesus. But Jesus sent him away and said, “Go home again. Announce the great things God did for you.” The man left and told the whole city the great things Jesus did for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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