***Introit (Psalm 34)***

P: Lord, I will announce Your commands to kings.

C: No one will shame me.

P: I will always bless the Lord.

C: My hands will always praise Him.

P: My soul boasts about the Lord.

C: Let humble people be happy with Him.

P: Children, come attend to me.

C: I will teach you to honor the Lord.

P: The Lord saves His servants.

C: People find safety with Him and God will not punish 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: Almighty and merciful Lord, give Your Holy Spirit for Your faithful people. Always keep us strong in Your grace and truth. When the devil tempts us or enemies attack us, then You protect and save us. Give Your saving peace for your church. 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 First Lesson is from Revelation chapter 14.

 I saw another angel flying above me. He had the eternal gospel to announce to people on earth, for every nation and family and language and country.

 The angel shouted with a loud voice, “Honor God! Give Him glory! Now is the time He will judge. Worship God! He made heaven and earth, the ocean and water springs.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Second Lesson is from Romans chapter 3.

 The Law commands many things. We know that those commands are for the people who must obey the Law. This stops all people’s excuses and shows that God will judge all the world. Why? Because no person can obey the Law and become holy in-front-of God. Because of the Law, we know and do sin.

 But now God shows how He makes us righteous. Obeying the Law doesn’t make us righteous. But the Law and the prophets tell us how God makes us righteous. God gives His righteousness through faith in Jesus Christ for all people who believe.

 All people the same sinned and all people lost God’s glory. God announced people holy because of His loving free gift. God sent Jesus to pay with His blood and save us. We have His gift through faith. God did this to show His righteousness. In the past God was patient and ignored people’s sins. Why? Because now God shows He does right and makes holy anyone trusting in Jesus.

 Should we boast? No, we have no reason to boast. Why not? Because we obey the Law? No! We can’t boast because God saves us through faith in Jesus. We know that God makes a person holy through faith, not through obeying the law.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*You have two choices for the Gospel lesson, a reading from Matthew 11 and a reading from John 8. Choose one.*

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 11.

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

 Jesus said, “From the time of JOHN the BAPTIZER until now, people attacked the kingdom of heaven. Angry people try to capture the kingdom of heaven. All the prophets and the law announced until JOHN. The Bible said ELIJAH will come. If you are willing to believe this, JOHN is ELIJAH. Pay attention and believe!”

 “How should I talk about this generation? The people are the same-as children in the city shouting to their friends, ‘We played music for you and you didn’t dance. We sang a sad song and you didn’t cry.’”

 “When JOHN came, he didn’t eat or drink and people said, ‘JOHN has a demon.’ The Son of Man (Jesus) came eating and drinking. People said, ‘Look at Him! Jesus eats too much and drinks too much. He is a friend with TAX collectors and sinners!’ But wisdom’s right actions will show that wisdom is right.’”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 8.

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

 Some Jews believed in Jesus. Jesus told them, “If you continue in My word, you are truly My disciples. You will know the truth, and the truth will free you.”

 The Jews answered, “We are children from ABRAHAM. We were never slaves. Why do You say we will become free?”

 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth. If a person sins, that person is a slave and sin is their boss. A slave doesn’t stay in the house forever. But the Son lives there forever. So if the Son frees you, you are really free.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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