***Introit (Psalm 116)***

P: I will give God a sacrifice of thanks

**C: And I will call-on the Lord’s name.**

P: What will I give the Lord

**C: For all His blessings for me?**

P: I will lift-up the cup of salvation

**C: And I will call-on the Lord’s name.**

P: The Lord thinks serious

C: About His holy people dying.

P: Lord, I am Your servant.

**C: I am Your servant, the son of Your woman servant. You freed me!**

**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 God, heavenly Father, we can’t trust our good works to save us. Help us trust Your continuing grace and live agreeing with Your Word. 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 55.

Search-for the Lord and find Him. Call to Him while He is near. Let bad people stop their sinful life and sinful thinking. Let evil people repent and go to the Lord. The Lord will show mercy. Our God will give much forgiveness.

The Lord says, “My thoughts are not the same-as your thoughts. Your ways are not My ways. The same-as the sky is high above the earth, the same God’s ways and thoughts are far-above your ways and thoughts.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Philippians chapter 1.

Dear believers, I want you to know that what is happening to me helped spread the gospel. I am in prison, and that means all the soldiers and everyone here knows about Christ. Also, now most of the believers are more brave to speak God’s word. They are not afraid.

I know I will become free, because you pray for me and the Spirit of Jesus Christ helps me. I hope very much that I will not feel ashamed. I always want to bravely honor Christ with my body, no-matter I live or die.

For me, now I live in Christ. If I die, that is better. If I continue living here, then I can work for Christ. Live or die, which should I do? I don’t know. This is hard for me. I want to leave and be with Christ. That is much better for me. But you need me to continue alive. I know I will live and stay with you, to help you grow in faith and joy. Then you will have good reason to rejoice in Christ Jesus, because I will see you again.

Let your life show the gospel of Christ in you. If I come to you or not, I want to hear that you are standing strong in faith as one group, with one spirit and one mind, working together for the gospel faith.

Don’t fear your enemies. They are your enemies; that is a sign God will destroy them, but He will save you. God gives you faith in Christ and lets you suffer for Christ. You saw me experience trouble and you hear about my trouble now. Now God lets you experience that same trouble.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel is from Matthew, chapter 20.

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

The kingdom of heaven is the same-as a man with a large farm. Early-in-the-morning he went and hired workers for his vineyard. He agreed to pay the workers for one full work day. He sent the workers into the field.

Then about 9:00 a.m., the owner went and saw men standing in town not working. The owner said to those men, “You go into my fields and I will pay you what is right.” And they went.

About noon and 3:00 p.m., the owner went again and hired more men. About 5:00 p.m. the owner went and found men in town not working. The owner asked, “Why do you stand here all day doing nothing?”

They answered, “No one hired us.”

The owner said, “You go into my fields, also.”

That evening, the owner told the work boss, “Call the workers and pay them. Begin paying the last workers, then pay the first workers.” Those workers starting at 5:00 pm received pay for one full work day. The morning workers came and thought they will get more money; but they also got pay for one full work day. The workers accepted the money, but they complained against the owner.

They said, “These last workers only worked one hour and you paid them the same-as us. We did the hard work in the hot day.”

The owner answered, “Friend, I did nothing wrong. You agreed to work for me and I pay you for one full day, correct? Take your money and leave. I want to pay you and the last worker the same. I can spend my money how I want, correct? Are you jealous because I am kind?”

Jesus said, “The same way, the last will become first and the first will become last.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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