***Introit (Psalm 105)***

P: In the desert, prepare the way for the Lord.

**C: In the desert, make a straight road for our God.**

P: Search-for the Lord and His strength.

**C: Always desire to be with Him!**

P: Remember His wonderful works.

**C: Remember His wonderful works and His judgments.**

P: You are children from His servant Abraham.

**C: You are children of Israel, the people He chose.**

P: He is the Lord our God.

**C: He judges all the earth.**

P: God remembers His promise forever.

**C: He remembers the word He commanded for a thousand generations.**

**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 Lord, inspire our hearts and lives. Make us ready for Your Son to come. Then because Jesus comes to us, we can worship and honor Jesus our Savior. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, 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 11.

King DAVID’s family is the-same-as a tree cut-down; but same-as new branches grow from the cut-down tree, a new King will come from DAVID’s family. The Spirit of the Lord will stay with him and give the new King wisdom and knowledge. The Spirit will lead him and give him strength, knowing God and respecting God. The new King will be-happy to honor God.

The King will not judge people from what he sees or hears. The new King will use righteousness to judge the poor people and will protect the helpless people. The new King will command punishment and kill the wicked people. The new King will judge with righteousness and faithfulness.

Wolves and sheep will live together in peace, and LEOPARDS will sleep with young goats. Baby cows and lions will eat together, and little children will take-care-of them. Cows and bears will eat together, and young cows and young bears will sleep together in peace. Lions will eat hay the same-as cows eat hay. Also a baby will play with snakes and not get hurt.

On God’s holy mountain no one will hurt or destroy. Knowledge of God will fill all things on earth, the-same-as water fills the seas. When the new King comes from DAVID’s family, the nations will come to the King and follow Him. His resting place will have much glory.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 15.

Long-ago, God wrote all these words, and He wrote these words to teach us. And we can have hope, because God’s word gives us patience and encourages us. And the God of patience and encouragement gives you peace with each other in Christ Jesus. Then all together you will give glory to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome each-other the same-as Christ welcomed you. That gives glory to God.

I tell you that Christ became a servant to the Jews because God is true. He is doing the same-as He promised our fathers. And Christ is a servant to the nations because of God’s mercy, then they can give glory to God.

The Bible says, “Therefore I will praise You among the nations and sing to Your name.” And again the Bible says, “You nations, rejoice with His people." And again, “All nations, praise the Lord; and all people, praise Him.” And again ISAIAH says, “A man will come from JESSE’s family; and He comes to reign the nations. The nations will trust in Him.” The God of hope will fill you with all joy and peace through believing, then the Holy Spirit’s power will fill you with hope.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 3.

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

Then JOHN the BAPTIZER came to the desert in the country named JUDAH and began preaching. John said, “Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near.”

ISAIAH the prophet told us about JOHN. “Someone is shouting in the desert, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord. Make a straight road for the Lord.’” JOHN’s clothes were-made from camel hair. JOHN had a leather belt, and he ate LOCUSTS (grasshoppers) and wild honey.

People came from the city named JERUSALEM and from all over the country named JUDAH, and from all the area of the JORDAN RIVER. The people confessed their sins, and JOHN baptized the people in the river.

JOHN saw many PHARISEES and SADDUCEES coming for baptism. JOHN said, “You snakes! Who warned you to escape from God’s punishment? First, show that you are sorry for your sins. Don’t say, ‘ABRAHAM is our father.’ I tell you that God can make these rocks become children for ABRAHAM. The ax is ready to cut-down the trees. Every tree that doesn’t grow good fruit, He will cut-down and throw into the fire.”

“I baptize you with water for repenting, but One Man will come after me. He is greater than me, and I am not good enough to carry His shoes. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He has the farmer’s shovel and will clean the barn. He will bring the good WHEAT into the barn. But He will burn the bad WEEDS in the fire that continues forever.”

This is the gospel of the Lord.

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