***Introit (Psalm 103)***

P: My soul, bless the Lord!

C: Don’t forget all His blessings.

P: He forgives all your sins.

C: He heals all your diseases.

P: The Lord shows mercy and grace.

C: He is slow to become angry, and He is full of faithful love.

P: He will not always punish,

C: And He will not continue angry forever.

P: He doesn’t discipline us for our sins,

C: He doesn’t punish us for our law breaking.

P: The same-as the sky is high above the earth,

C: The same, He loves much people who honor Him.

**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: God, You are strong for all people who trust You. In Your mercy, use Your power to protect us from all our trouble. 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 Leviticus chapter 19.

The Lord spoke to MOSES. He said, “Tell all the people of ISRAEL, ‘You will be holy, because I the Lord your God am holy.’”

“When you harvest, don’t harvest to the edge of your field. Don’t go through your field twice. Don’t pick up everything, and don’t pick up grapes that fall on the ground. Leave them for poor people and travelers to pick up. I am the Lord your God.

You will not steal. You will not lie to each other. You will not use My name to swear lies and insult the name of your God. I am the Lord.

You will not burden your neighbor or steal from him. When a servant works for you, pay him the same day; don’t wait. You will not curse deaf people or put a block in-front-of a blind person to make him fall. You will honor your God. I am the Lord.

You will be fair in court. You will not favor poor people or honor important people. You will rightly judge your neighbor. You will not gossip about people, and you will not put your neighbor’s life in danger. I am the Lord.

You will not hate your brother in your heart. You will discuss honestly with your neighbor, so you will not sin. You will not get revenge or keep hard feelings against each other. Instead, you will love your neighbor the same-as you love yourself. I am the Lord.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 3.

God gave me grace to build the church. The same-as a skilled builder, I made a foundation. Now someone else builds on that foundation. Each person should be careful how he builds. The foundation is Jesus Christ, and no one can make a different foundation. If anyone builds on that foundation using gold, silver, expensive stones, wood, HAY, STRAW, that work will show good or bad. The day will show that, and fire will test that work. If the work was good and passes the test, then the builder will get a reward. If his work burns up, he will suffer. God will save him, but he will go through fire.

Do you know that all of you are God’s temple and God’s Spirit lives in you? If someone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him. God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.

Don’t fool yourselves. If you think you are wise in this world, lose that wisdom and become foolish in this world. Then you can become truly wise. God says the wisdom of this world is foolishness. The Bible says, “God traps the wise people in their wisdom.” And, “The Lord knows wise people’s thoughts, and they are worthless.” Don’t boast about people. All things belong to you – PAUL, APOLLOS, PETER, the world, life, death, the present, the future – it all belongs to you. And you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 5.

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

Jesus said, you know the saying, “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.” But I tell you, don’t stop an evil person. If someone slaps your right cheek, let him slap your left check also. If someone will sue you and take your shirt, give him your coat also. If anyone forces you to walk one mile with him, you go two miles with him. If someone begs from you, give to him. And if someone wants to borrow from you, don’t say no.

You know the saying, “Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.” But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for people who persecute you. Then you will be sons of your Father in heaven. He makes His sun rise on evil people and good people both, and He sends rain for good people and bad people. If you love people who love you, what reward do you get for that? Tax collectors do that. If you only welcome your brothers, you aren’t doing more than other people. The non-Jews do the same. Therefore you must be perfect, the same-as your heavenly Father is perfect.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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