***Introit (Psalm 105)***

P: God remembers His promise forever.

C: He remembers His word for a thousand generations.

P: Search-for the Lord and His strength.

C: Always search-for Him!

P: Remember the wonderful work He did.

C: Remember His saving work and His judgment.

P: You children from His servant Abraham,

C: Children of Israel, His chosen people.

P: He is the Lord our God.

C: He judges all the earth.

**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 see that we have no strength. Use Your great power and protect us from troubles in our body. Save us from evil thoughts that attack and hurt our soul. 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 Genesis chapter 12.

 In the country named HARAN the Lord said to a man named ABRAM, “Leave your country. Leave your family and your father’s house. Go to a country I will show you. And I will make you become a great nation. I will bless you and make your name famous. You will become a blessing for other people. If someone blesses you, I will bless that person. If someone curses you, I will curse them. Through you, I will bless all families on earth.”

 Now ABRAM went same-as the Lord ordered. His nephew named LOT went with him. ABRAM was 75 years old when he moved from HARAN. He brought SARAI his wife and LOT his nephew and all the things they had and the servants they had in HARAN. They began traveling to the country named CANAAN.

 They arrived in CANAAN and ABRAM walked through the country to the place named SHECHEM, to the OAK tree at MOREH. The people named CANAANITES lived in that country.

 The Lord appeared to ABRAM and said, “I will give this country to your future family.” Then ABRAM built an altar there to remember the Lord’s visit. Then he moved his tent to the hills east of BETHEL. His tent was between the cities BETHEL on the west and AI on the east. In that place he built an altar to the Lord and prayed to Him. Then ABRAM continued traveling to the area named the NEGEV.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson from Romans chapter 4.

 What can we say about ABRAHAM, the father of Jewish people? If ABRAHAM became holy because he did good works, then he has a reason for boasting. But he can’t boast to God. Why not? What does the Bible say? “ABRAHAM believed God, and God named his faith righteous.”

 If you work, then the boss pays you. The money you get is not a gift. The boss owes you. If you don’t trust works, but you believe that God makes sinners become holy, then God says your faith is the same-as righteousness for you.

 DAVID also says how God blesses people and announces them righteous without works. DAVID said, “God blesses people when He forgives their law breaking and He forgets their sins. Happy is the man when the Lord doesn’t judge him for his sin.”

 God promised ABRAHAM and his future family that he will inherit the world. God gave that promise through righteous faith, not through the law. If people inherit because they obey the law, then faith is nothing and the promise is worthless. Because the law brings anger. But if there is no law, then there is no law-breaking.

 All this depends on faith. Then God’s promise depends on grace, and His promise is good for all ABRAHAM’s children. His promise isn’t only for people obeying the law. God’s promise is also for people having faith the same-as ABRAHAM. ABRAHAM is the father for us all. The Bible says, “I (God) made you (ABRAHAM) the father of many nations.” God gave that promise to ABRAHAM, and he believed. God gives life to dead people and He creates new things from nothing.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 3.

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

 A man named NICODEMUS was a PHARISEE and a Jewish leader. At night, he went to Jesus and said, “Lord, we know You are a teacher and God sent You. You can’t do these wonderful things unless God is with You.”

 Jesus answered him, “Honestly, I tell you; unless a man is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

 NICODEMUS said, “How can an old man be-born again? Can he enter his mother a second time and be-born?”

 Jesus answered, “Honestly, I tell you; unless a person is born from water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.

 “Flesh gives-birth to flesh. And Spirit gives-birth to spirit. Don’t worry that I said to you, ‘You must be-born again.’ The wind blows any place it wants. You hear the wind, but you don’t-know the place the wind began or the place the wind stops. Everyone born from the Spirit is the same.”

 NICODEMUS answered, “How can these things happen?”

 Jesus said, “You are a teacher in Israel and you don’t-know these things? Honestly, I tell you; we talk about the things we know, and we witness about the things we see. But you don’t accept our witness. If I tell you about earthly things and you don’t believe, then how will you believe the heavenly things I tell you? No one went up to heaven except the Son of Man, and He came-down from heaven.

 “MOSES lifted-up the snake in the desert. The same, people must lift-up the Son of Man. Then any person believing in Him will have eternal life. Because God loved the world, how? God gave His only Son, then everyone believing in Him will not die, but will have eternal life. Because God didn’t send His Son into the world to judge the world, but to save the world.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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