***Introit (Psalm 103)***

P: The Lord is full of mercy and grace.

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

P: People’s lives are short, the same-as grass.

**C: People live the same-as a flower.**

P: The hot wind comes and the flower dies.

**C: The ground doesn’t remember the flower.**

P: But the Lord shows faithful love forever for people honoring Him.

**C: And His righteousness is for generations.**

P: For people who obey His agreements

**C: And remember to do His commandments.**

P: The Lord puts His throne in heaven

**C: And His kingdom reigns over all.**

**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: Blessed Lord, You made the Holy Bible to teach us. Let us attend Your word, read, understand, learn and believe Your word. Then we will always hold-onto the blessed hope of eternal life. 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.

The rain and snow come-down from heaven and give water to the earth and make the SEED grow for the farmer and give bread for the people. Same is My word. I send out My word and My word doesn’t come back empty. My word will do everything I want and will succeed in My goal.

You will go out with joy. I will lead you in peace. The mountains and hills will shout with joy for you. All the trees in the field will clap-their-hands.

No thorns or weeds will grow. Instead, the CYPRESS tree and MYRTLE tree will grow. That will show the name of the Lord, an eternal proof that never ends.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 8.

Believers, we owe much. But we don’t owe our sinful desires, for us to follow them. If you live in your sinful desires, then you will die. But if the Holy Spirit helps you kill your sinful actions, then you will live. If the Spirit of God leads you, then you are a son of God.

You didn’t receive a spirit that makes you slaves and afraid again. You received a Spirit who adopts you as sons. With the Holy Spirit, you shout, “Daddy, Father!”

The Holy Spirit speaks with our spirit and announces that we are God’s children. If we are His children, then we will inherit from Him. We will inherit from God, and we will inherit with Christ. We will suffer with Christ, then we can have glory with Christ.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 13.

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

The same day Jesus left the house and went and sat near the lake. But so many people gathered around Jesus that He must enter a boat. Jesus sat-down in the boat and the people stood on the shore. Then Jesus used stories to teach them.

He said, “A farmer went-out to sow-SEEDS. While the farmer threw-out SEEDS, some SEED fell on the road. The birds came and ate it. Some SEED fell on the rocky ground where the dirt was thin. The plants grew quickly. But the sun rose and burned those plants because they didn’t have good roots, and the plants died. Some SEED fell among the THORNS. The THORNS grew and choked the good plants.

But some SEED fell on good ground and grew and increased 100 times, 60 times, or 30 times more. If you can pay attention, then pay attention.”

“Attend to the story about the farmer and what that means. Happens anyone hears the story about the kingdom of God, but he doesn’t understand that, then the devil comes and steals God’s word from his heart. That is the same-as the SEED falling on the road. Next the SEED fell on the rocky ground. That means a person is happy to hear God’s word, but God’s word doesn’t enter deep in his heart. He believes for a short time, but happens trouble comes or suffering comes because of God’s word, then he quickly loses faith.

Next the SEED falls among the THORNS. That is the same-as a person hearing God’s word, but he worries about the world and loves pleasures and money more than God’s word, and God’s word can’t grow in his life. The last SEED fell on the good ground. That is the same-as a person hearing God’s word and understanding it. His life grows and increases good fruit, sometimes 100 times more, sometimes 60 times more, sometimes 30 times.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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