***Introit (Psalm 86)***

P: Lord, attend my prayer

**C: Attend me begging for grace.**

P: Teach me Your way, Lord. Then I will live in Your truth.

**C: Give me a faithful heart to honor Your name.**

P: O Lord my God, with all my heart I will thank You.

**C: I will glorify Your name forever.**

P: Your love for me is great.

**C: You saved my soul from death and the grave.**

P: God, angry men attack me. Angry men want to kill me.

**C: They don’t follow You.**

P: But You, Lord, are a God full of mercy and grace.

**C: You are slow to become angry. You are full of love and faithfulness.**

**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, give Your Holy Spirit to reign and lead our hearts and minds. Then we will remember You will come to judge, and You will encourage us to live holy here and then live in perfect joy with You forever. 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 44.

The Lord, the King of Israel, and the Savior, the Lord of the armies of heaven, says, “I am the First and the Last. There is no other God. Who is the same-as Me? Let him announce that. Let him tell Me, because long-ago I chose people. Let him announce the future things that will happen.

Fear not, don’t be-afraid! Long-ago I told you who I am. You are My witnesses. Is there another God? There is no other Rock. I know no other God.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 8.

We can’t compare our suffering now and our future glory. Our suffering now is very small and God will show us a future glory very great. All the world waits eagerly and wants to see God show who His children are. Because now all the world is frustrated, not because the world wanted that, but God did that, and God gave hope also. Because finally, all the things God made, He will free them from the prison of destruction and give them glorious freedom same-as His children.

Until now all things suffer same-as a woman suffers during child birth. And we also suffer. Now we have the Holy Spirit’s first blessings and we suffer in ourselves while we wait for God to adopt us as His sons and save our bodies.

God saves us in this hope. If you can see hope, that is not true hope. No one hopes for things he can see now. But if we hope for things we cannot see, then we wait patiently for that.

We are weak, but the Holy Spirit helps us. We truly don’t-know how to pray the way we should. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groans more deep than words can explain. God knows what people think. God knows what the Holy Spirit thinks. The Holy Spirit prays for Christians same-as God wants.

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.

Jesus told the people another story. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is the same-as a farmer planting good WHEAT SEED in his field. Then at night, his workers were sleeping. His enemy came and planted WEEDS in the field among the WHEAT, and then went-away. The plants grew. The WHEAT appeared, then the WEEDS appeared also.

The servants came to the farmer and said, ‘Master, you planted good SEED in your field, correct? Where are the WEEDS from?’

The farmer said, ‘An enemy did this.’

The servants said to him, ‘Do you want us to pull-out the WEEDS?’

The farmer answered, ‘No, because you maybe will pull-out the good WHEAT with the WEEDS. Let both grow until the harvest. And at harvest time I will tell my workers to pull-out the WEEDS first and tie them in bundles for burning, but gather the WHEAT into my BARN.’”

Jesus left the crowd and entered the house. His disciples came and said, “Explain the story about the WEEDS in the field.”

Jesus answered, “The one who planted good SEED is the Son of Man (Jesus). The field is the world, and the good SEED means the people in God’s kingdom. The WEEDS are the people who belong to the evil one. The devil is the enemy who planted them. The harvest is the end of the world, and the angels do the harvest work.”

“In the story, the workers pull-out the WEEDS and burn them in fire. At the end of the world, that will happen the same. The Son of Man will send-out His angels. Everything that causes sin and every person who does evil, the angels will pull-out of the kingdom. The angels will throw them into the fiery furnace. There, people will cry and grind their teeth. The righteous will shine the same-as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Pay attention to this!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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