***Introit (Psalm 105)***

P: Give-thanks to the Lord! Call-on His name.

**C: Tell all people what He has done!**

P: Sing for God! Sing praises for Him!

**C: Announce all His wonderful works.**

P: Glory in His holy name.

**C: You people searching-for the Lord, rejoice!**

P: Search-for the Lord and His strength!

**C: Always search-for his face.**

P: Remember his amazing work,

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

P: You children from His servant Abraham,

**C: You children of Israel, His chosen people.**

**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: Almighty and eternal God, give us more faith, hope and love. Then we will have what You promise, and we can love what You command. 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 Deuteronomy chapter 7.

 You are people holy for the Lord your God. From all people on earth, the Lord your God chose you as His precious people.

 Did the Lord love you and choose you because you were a large nation? No. You were a very small nation. The Lord loves you and He kept His promise to your fathers. His mighty hand saved you from slavery. He saved you from the king of EGYPT.

 Now you know that the Lord your God, only He is God. He is the faithful God. He keeps His promises. He shows His loving kindness to a thousand generations of people who love Him and obey His commandments.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 8.

 We know God makes everything happen for good for people who love God, for people He calls for His purpose. Because God knew us and chose us to become the same-as His Son; then Jesus becomes the oldest brother for God’s many children. Yes, long-ago God chose us, and He called us and He forgave us, and He gives us His glory.

 What do we say about this? If God supports us, then no person can defeat us. God didn’t keep His own Son. He gave His Son to die for us. That proves that He also freely gives us all things.

 Who can accuse God's chosen people? No one! God saves us. Then who will punish us? No one! Christ Jesus died for us, and Jesus also arose from death. And now Jesus is with God in heaven praying to God for us.

 Can anything separate us from Christ's love? No! Can trouble separate us from Christ's love? No! Can problems or persecution separate us? No! If we have no food or clothes, will that separate us from Christ's love? No! Will danger or death separate us? No! The same-as the Bible says, “Because of You, people kill us all day long. People think we are the same-as sheep to be killed.”

 But in all these things we have victory through God who loves us. Yes, I know truly that nothing can separate us from God’s love. Not death, not life, not angels, not kingdoms, nothing now, nothing in the future, not powers, not height, not depth, nothing in all the world can separate us from God’s love He shows in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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 said, “The kingdom of heaven is the same-as TREASURE buried in a field. A man finds the box, and then hides and buries that again. That man is happy! He sells everything he has and buys that field.”

 “The kingdom of heaven is the same-as a man buying and selling beautiful PEARLS. Happens he finds one expensive perfect PEARL, he sells everything he has and buys that PEARL.”

 “The kingdom of heaven is the same-as a large NET thrown into the lake and catching many different fish. The NET became full of fish. The men pulled the NET to dry land. They sat-down and separated the fish. The good fish they put into a box; the worthless fish they threw-away.”

 “The same will happen at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the bad people and the good people. They will throw the bad people into the fire. There people will cry and grind their teeth. Do you understand these stories?”

 Jesus’ disciples answered, “Yes, we understand.”

 Jesus said, “Then every law teacher who becomes a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is the same-as a man owning a house. That man brings out-of storage both new and old things.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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