***Introit (Psalm 2)***

P: We will bless the Lord

**C: Now and forever, praise the Lord!**

P: God says, I put My King

**C: On Jerusalem, My holy hill.**

P: I will announce this:

**C: The Lord told me, “You are My Son. Today I became Your Father.”**

P: All nations, praise the Lord!

**C: All people, praise Him!**

P: His love for us is great.

**C: The Lord’s faithfulness continues forever. Praise the Lord!**

**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 God, when we know You, that is eternal life. Show us Your Son, Jesus, He is the way, the truth, and the life. Then we can bravely announce He is the Christ. And we can faithfully live the way to eternal life. We pray through Jesus Christ, 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 51.

 You people searching for righteousness, attend to Me! You people searching-for the Lord, trust the Lord, the Rock. Your life came from Him. Remember ABRAHAM, your father, and SARAH, she gave birth to you. When I called ABRAHAM, he was only one man. Then I blessed him and gave him a large family.

 The Lord comforts His people. All the people in destroyed places, He will comfort them. He will make the desert become the same-as the Garden of EDEN. The desert will become the same-as the Lord’s garden. Joy and happiness will be there, thanksgiving and singing.

 My people, attend to Me. My nation, listen to Me. I give My Laws, and My right judgment is same-as a light for the nations. My righteousness comes soon, and My salvation goes out to all people. I will judge the nations. The land near the sea will eagerly wait for Me and trust in Me. Look-up to the sky, and look-down to the earth. The sky will disappear the same-as smoke, the earth will melt-away the same-as old clothes. The people living will die same-as FLIES. But My salvation gift will continue forever, and My righteousness will never become disappointed.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapters 11 & 12.

 The riches and the wisdom and the knowledge of God are amazing and deep! His judgments are far above our understanding, and His works are far above our searching. Who knows the Lord’s mind? Or who gives-Him advice? Or who first gave to Him and then God must pay that man again? Because all things are from Him and through Him and for Him. Give-Him glory forever! Amen.

 Fellow Christians, while you remember God’s mercy, I encourage you to give yourselves to God the same-as a sacrifice, living, holy, and pleasing to God. That is your right spiritual worship. Don’t live copying the world, but let God make your mind new. Then you can test and truly know what God wants. You will know what God says is good and pleasing and perfect.

 God gave me His grace for me to tell you this. Don’t feel proud about yourself. Understand yourselves rightly, agreeing with the faith God gave you.

 One body has many different parts and each part has a different work. The same, the church is one body in Christ, and we are each members joined-together. God gave each person gifts the same-as He wants. Use your gifts. If you can speak God’s word, then do that agreeing with the faith you have. If you can serve, then serve. If you can teach, then teach. If you can encourage, encourage. If you can give to help others, then give freely. If you lead, do that eagerly. If you show mercy, do that with joy.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew chapter 16.

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

 Jesus went into the country named CAESAREA PHILIPPI. Then Jesus asked His disciples, “What do people say about the Son of Man? Who do they say I am?”

 The disciples answered, “Some people say You are JOHN the BAPTIZER, some people say You are ELIJAH, and other people say You are JEREMIAH or another prophet.”

 Jesus said to them, “But who do you say that I am?”

 PETER answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

 Jesus said to him, “SIMON, son of JONAH, bless you, because no person taught you that. My Father in heaven showed you that. And I tell you that you are PETER, and on this rock I will build My church, and the church will be stronger than hell’s power. I will give you the keys for the kingdom of heaven. Anything you judge on earth will be judged the same in heaven, and anything you make free on earth will be made free the same in heaven.”

 Then Jesus commanded His disciples, “Don’t tell anyone that I am the Christ.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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