***Introit (Psalm 37)***

P: Be happy in the Lord,

**C: And He will give you what your heart desires.**

P: Trust the Lord with your life.

**C: Trust Him, and He will do for you.**

P: He will make your righteousness shine.

**C: Your right actions will be bright the same-as noon.**

P: Have peace, wait patiently for the Lord.

**C: Don’t worry about evil people succeeding.**

**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, Your Son willingly suffered pain and shame on the cross to save us. Make us brave. Then every day we can pick-up our cross and follow Jesus leading. We pray in the name of 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 Jeremiah chapter 15.

JEREMIAH said, “Lord, You understand. Remember me and help me. You get revenge against those people persecuting me. You are patient with me and don’t punish me. Remember, I suffer because I follow You.

You spoke to me, and I listened to every word. Your words fill my heart with joy and happiness, because I belong to You, Lord God Almighty.

I didn’t sit with people celebrating. I didn’t rejoice. I sat alone because of the work You gave me. You filled me with anger. Why does my pain continue? Why are my hurts not healed? God, will You disappoint me the same-as a stream becoming dry?”

The Lord answered, “If you repent, I will strengthen you, and you will serve Me again. If you stop talking foolish, and you announce the right message, you will speak for Me. The people should change and follow you. You should not change and follow them. I will make you the same-as a strong wall. The people will fight against you, but they will not defeat you. I am with you to save you and protect you. The Lord announces, I will save you from the power of the wicked and angry people.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapters 12.

Show honest love. Hate evil things. Hold-on to what is good. Love each-other same-as family. Honor each-other much. Don’t be lazy, but continue eager in spirit and serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope. Continue patient through trouble. Continue faithful in prayer. Share your things to help other believers, and welcome strangers.

If people persecute you, you bless them. Don’t curse them. Rejoice with people who rejoice. Cry with people who cry. Agree with each other. Don’t be proud, but accept humble people. Don’t have a big head.

If people do evil to you, don’t do evil back to them. Do what everyone knows is right. If possible, as much as you are able, live in peace with all people. Don’t get revenge. Let God’s anger do His work. In the Bible, the Lord says, “I will get revenge, I will pay back.” The Bible also tells us, “If your enemy is hungry, feed him. If he is thirsty, give him a drink. When you do that, you will put burning coals on his head and make him feel ashamed.” Don’t let evil defeat you. You do good and defeat evil.

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.

After that Jesus began speaking clearly to His disciples: “I must go to JERUSALEM and suffer much from the Jewish leaders and chief priests and Law teachers. They will kill Me and on the third day I will arise alive.”

But PETER talked to Jesus alone to correct Him. PETER said, “No, Lord! That must never happen to You!”

Jesus turned-away and said, “Satan, go behind Me! You are against Me! You are not thinking the same-as God thinks. You are thinking the same-as a man thinks.”

Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone will follow Me, then he must give-up his life, pick-up his cross and follow Me. If anyone tries to save his own life, he will lose it. If anyone will give-up his life to follow Me, then he will find his life.

Because how is it good for you if you get the whole world but you lose your soul? Nothing! What can you pay to keep your life? Nothing!”

“The Son of Man will come with His angels in the Father’s glory. He will pay everyone for his actions. I tell you the truth, some people standing here will not die until they first see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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