***Introit (Psalm 143)***

P: Lord, save me from my enemies!

**C: I run to You for safety.**

P: Lord, attend my prayer. I beg You for mercy.

**C: Answer me because You are faithful and righteous.**

P: Don’t judge Your servant.

**C: No one is righteous in-front-of You.**

**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: O God, You are our protection and strength. All good comes from You. Attend Your people praying to You. When the world hates and attacks Your church, hear our prayers. We pray with faith in You; please answer and give Your good gifts. 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 Genesis chapter 50.

JOSEPH’S father (JACOB) died. Then JOSEPH’S brothers said to each other, “What if JOSEPH hates us and plans revenge against us because we did wrong against him?” The brothers sent a message to JOSEPH: “Before our father died, he told us to ask you, ‘Please forgive your brothers and their sin. They did evil against you.’ Now please forgive our sin. We are the servants of your father’s God.” JOSEPH heard the message and he cried. Then JOSEPH’S brothers came and bowed-down in-front-of JOSEPH and said, “We are your servants.”

 JOSEPH said to his brothers, “Don’t fear. I am not God. I can’t punish you. You planned evil against me, but God changed that to do good, to save many people’s lives. And they are alive today. Don’t fear. I myself will take-care-of you and your children.” JOSEPH comforted his brothers with kind words.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans, chapter 14.

 Some people have weak faith. Welcome them, but don’t argue about opinions. One person has faith and eats all foods. A person with weak faith eats only vegetables. The person eating meat should not look-down on the person not eating meat. The person not eating meat should not judge the person eating meat, because God accepted him.

 You think you can judge God’s servant? That person will answer to God. And he will stand brave, because God makes him stand.

 One person thinks one day is more important than another day. Another person thinks every day is the same. Each person must know his own beliefs. The person who honors special days, he does that for the Lord.

 The person eating meat, he eats to honor the Lord, because he thanks God for that food. The person not eating meat, he does that to honor the Lord, and he thanks God.

 We don’t live for ourselves, and we don’t die for ourselves. If we live, we live for the Lord. If we die, we die for the Lord. No-matter we live or die, we belong-to the Lord. Christ died and arose again to become Lord for the dead and the living people.

 So why do you judge another Christian? Or why do you look-down on another Christian? We will all stand in-front-of God’s judgment seat. The Bible says, “The Lord says, as true as I live, everyone will bow to Me, and everyone will confess to God.” So each one of us will answer to God about our actions.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Matthew, chapter 18.

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

 PETER came to Jesus and asked Him, “Lord, my brother sins against me, how many times must I forgive him? Seven times?”

 Jesus told him, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven. The kingdom of heaven is the same-as a king wanting his servants to pay their debts. One servant came and he owed the king 200,000 years of wages. But the servant couldn’t pay that debt. The king ordered to sell that servant, his wife, his children, and all his things, sell everything to pay the debt.”

 Then the servant knelt and bowed-down in-front-of the king and begged, “Please be patient with me, and I will pay you everything.” The king felt sorry for the servant, freed him, and forgave his debt.

 The servant left and he found another servant owing him 100 days of wages. He grabbed-his-neck and shook him saying, “Pay all you owe me.”

 The second servant knelt and begged him, 'Please be patient with me, and I will pay you.” But the first servant refused and put him in jail until he paid all his debt.

 When all the other servants saw everything happen, they felt sad. And they came and told the king everything. Then the king called the first servant and said, “You wicked servant! I forgave all your debt, because you begged me. I showed mercy to you; now you should show mercy to this other servant the same-as I showed mercy to you, correct?”

 The king became angry and gave that wicked servant to the jail keepers until he paid his full debt. Jesus said, the same, My Father in heaven will do to you, if you will not forgive your brother from your heart.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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