***Introit (Psalm 56)***

P: You saved my soul from death. You saved me from falling.

**C: Then I can walk in-front-of God in the light of life.**

P: When I am afraid,

**C: I will trust You.**

P: I will trust God. I praise His word. I trust God and will not fear.

**C: What can people do against me?**

P: I trust God. I praise His word.

**C: I trust the Lord. I praise His word.**

P: I trust God and I will not fear.

**C: What can people do against me?**

**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 always with us. Make us see Your mercy every day, then we can live safe and satisfied in Your eternal love. 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 Jeremiah chapter 20.

JEREMIAH said, O Lord, You fooled me! You defeated me! You are stronger than me and You won.

All day, people laugh at me and mock me. Every time I talk, I shout-out, “Terrible things and destruction will happen!” People laugh at me and mock me because I announce the Lord’s word.

Suppose I say, “I will not talk about God. I will not speak in His name.” But I can’t stop. Your word becomes the same-as a hot fire in my heart and my bones. I try to hide Your word and say nothing, but I can’t keep quiet.

I hear many people whispering threats against me. Danger is everywhere. My friends say, “Gossip about him! Criticize him!” They watch for me to make a mistake. They say, “He will trap himself, and then we will defeat him and get-revenge.”

But the Lord is with me same-as a mighty Defender. Those people will fall. They can’t defeat me. They will be shamed. They will not succeed. They will have a bad name forever.

O Lord of Armies, You test the righteous people. You see thoughts in our hearts and minds. Let me see Your revenge against them, because I trust You and leave that in Your hands.

Sing to the Lord, praise the Lord! Because He saved poor people’s souls from evil people.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 6.

Don’t let sin reign in your body. Don’t obey evil desires. Don’t use your body for sin and bad actions. Use your life to serve God, because you were dead and He gave you life. Use your body to serve God and do righteousness. Sin will not reign over you. You don’t live in the law. You live in grace.

Now what? We live in God’s grace and not the law, that means we can sin? No! Suppose you are slaves and you obey your master. Who is your master? If you obey sin, then you will die. If you obey God, then you will live in righteousness. In the past, you were slaves obeying sin. But thank God, now your heart obeys the right teaching from God. God made you free from sin, and now you are slaves serving righteousness.

I use this example from everyday life, because you have limited understanding. In the past, your bodies were slaves obeying sin and wicked actions. That sin became worse and worse. Now your bodies are slaves obeying righteousness, and that means a holy life.

When you were slaves obeying sin, then righteousness didn’t control you. How was that good for you? That life shamed you. That life leads to death. But now God freed you from sin. Now you are slaves belonging to God, and that leads to holiness and eternal life. Sin earns death, but God gives eternal life freely 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 10.

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

Jesus sent-out the twelve disciples. Jesus told them, “Brother will betray brother to kill him. A father will betray his child. Children will rebel against their parents to kill them. All people will hate you because you belong to Me. But the person who continues until the end, God saves that person. When people persecute you in one city, escape to the next city. I tell you the truth, you will not finish going through the cities of ISRAEL before the Son of Man comes.”

“The student isn’t over the teacher. The slave isn’t over the boss. If the student becomes the same-as the teacher, or the slave becomes the same-as the boss, that is enough. If they name the house leader “BEELZEBUB” (devil), then they will say worse things about people in the house.”

“Don’t be-afraid of them. Because the things covered now will become open. People will know about the things now hidden. The words I tell you in secret at night, you will tell in the day. The teaching I whisper to you, you will announce to all people.”

“Don’t be-afraid of people. People will kill the body, but they can’t kill your soul. You honor God, because He can destroy both body and soul in hell.”

“You can buy two small birds for a penny. But one bird can’t die without your Father’s permission. And God knows how-many hairs are on your head. Then don’t be-afraid, because you are more important than many birds.”

“If you tell people that you belong-to Me, also I will tell My Father in heaven that you belong-to Me. But if you tell people that you don’t-know Me, also I will tell My Father in heaven that I don’t-know you.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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