***Introit (Psalm 80)***

P: God, make us new.

**C: Make Your face shine on us and save us.**

P: Shepherd for Israel, You lead Your people same-as a flock of sheep. Listen to us.

**C: In the middle of angels, You sit on Your throne.**

P: You brought a plant out from Egypt.

C: That grew and filled all the country.

P: God Almighty, make us new.

**C: Make Your face shine on us and save us.**

**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: Lord, inspire our hearts and lives. Make us ready for Your Son to come again. Then when He comes, our hearts and minds will be clean and we can serve You. 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 Isaiah chapter 40.

 Your God says, “Comfort, yes, comfort My people. Speak with kindness to the people in the city JERUSALEM, and tell the people, ‘Your suffering is finished. I forgive your sins. The Lord now gave you double forgiveness for all your sins.”

 A voice shouts: “In the desert prepare the way for the Lord. In the desert, make a straight-highway for our God. Every valley will be lifted-up, and every mountain will be pushed-down. The hills will become level, and the rough places become smooth. The glory of the Lord will appear, and all people together will see His glory. The Lord announces this.”

 A voice commands, “Shout!” I said, “Shout what?” All people are same-as grass. The beauty of people is same-as flowers in the field.

 The grass dies. God breathes on the flower and the flower falls. People are the-same. The grass dies, the flower falls, but God’s Word continues forever.

 My people, go up on a high mountain. Announce good news. JERUSALEM, shout with a loud voice. You bring good news! Shout louder! Don’t be afraid. Say to the cities in the country JUDAH: “Look! Here is your God! He comes with power, and He reigns all things Himself. See, He has His gifts and His payment. He will feed His sheep same-as a shepherd. He will gather the lambs and hold-them-close. He will gently lead the mother sheep with their lambs.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 2 Peter chapter 3.

 Dear friends, don’t forget one thing. For the Lord, one day is the same-as 1,000 years, and 1,000 years are the same-as one day. The Lord is not slow to do His promise. He is not slow the same as some people think. No, God is patient with you. He doesn’t want anyone to die. He wants everyone to repent.

 The Lord’s Judgment Day will come same-as a thief. On that day the skies will disappear with a terrible noise. Everything in the sky will burn and be destroyed, and the earth and everything on the earth will disappear.

 All things we see will get destroyed. Now, how should we live? Your lives must be holy, given to God, while you wait and hope for the future Day of God. On that day the sky will melt in fire and all things will melt in heat. But God promised a new sky and a new earth. Righteousness will live there.

 Now, my friends, while you wait, always live innocent and without blame in-front-of God, and live in peace.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 1.

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

 Beginning the good message about Jesus Christ, Son of God. In the book of the prophet ISAIAH, God said: “I will send My announcer in-front-of You to prepare the way for You. A person in the desert will be shouting: ‘Prepare the way for the Lord; make straight-roads for Him.’”

 Then JOHN came. In the desert, he baptized people and he preached people should repent and get baptized to have forgiveness. All the people in the country JUDEA and in the city JERUSALEM came to listen to JOHN. They confessed their sins and JOHN baptized them in the river named JORDAN.

 JOHN dressed with a coat from camel hair and with a leather belt, and JOHN ate locusts and honey. JOHN preached: “One Man greater than me will come. I am not good enough to kneel and untie His shoes. I baptize you with water. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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