***Introit (Psalm 13)***

P: I will sing to the Lord,

**C: Because He is very good to me.**

P: Lord my God, think about me and answer me.

C: Give me life, or I will die.

P: Don’t let my enemy defeat me.

**C: Don’t let my enemy be happy I am weak.**

P: I trust Your continuing love.

**C: My heart is happy with You saving 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: Lord, keep Your family, Your church, always in true faith. Make us always trust and hope in Your grace. Then Your power will always protect us. 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 Isaiah chapter 40.

 You don’t know? You didn’t hear? No one told you in the beginning? Long-ago God made the earth, but you didn’t understand?

 God sits above the circle of the earth. Compared to God, people are the same-as grasshoppers. God stretches the sky the same-as a curtain. He makes the sky the same as a tent to live in. God takes-away power from rulers. He makes princes become nothing.

 Princes are the same-as plants. God plants them. They begin to grow up and grow roots. God blows on them and they become dry. The storm blows them away.

 The Holy One says, “Who is the same-as Me? No one is equal to Me!”

 Look up and see. Who created the stars? God counts all the stars and puts them in the sky. He names them all. His strength and power takes-care of the stars. Not one star is missing.

 JACOB and ISRAEL, why do you say, “The Lord doesn’t see my actions. God doesn’t pay-attention to me.”

 You didn’t know? You didn’t hear? The Lord is the eternal God. He made all the earth. He doesn’t become weak or tired. He understands everything.

 God gives power to tired people. He gives strength to weak people. Young people will become tired and weak. Young men will be tired and fall. But people who wait for the Lord will get new strength. The same-as eagles, they will fly. They will run and not become tired. They will walk and not become weak.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 1 Corinthians chapter 9.

 I preach the good news, but I have nothing to boast. I must tell the good news. If I don’t preach the good news, terrible for me! If I volunteer to preach, then I get a reward. But if I don’t volunteer, God still gives me this responsibility.

 Then what reward do I get? I can preach the good news free, and I never demand my earned pay.

 Now, I am a free man, no one controls me. But I made myself a servant for everyone. Why? Then I can lead more people to Christ. For the Jews, I become same-as a Jew, then I can lead them to Christ. For people thinking they must obey God’s law, I become same-as them, then I can lead them to Christ. But I understand God’s law doesn’t control me.

 When I am working with not-Jewish people, I live the-same-as those people without the Jewish law, then I can lead them to Christ. But I don’t break God’s law. I follow Christ’s law.

 Some people are weak. I become weak, then I can lead them to Christ. I become the-same-as every person, then I can lead them to Christ. I do all things for the gospel. Then I can share gospel blessings with them.

 You know in a race many people run, but only one wins the prize. You run so you can win. Everyone who runs in the games must control themselves. They win a crown that continues a short time. We will get an eternal crown.

 I run to win. I don’t wander. I fight for real, I don’t just punch the air. I train my body and control myself. After I preached to other people, I don’t want to lose the prize.

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.

 Jesus left the Jewish church and went to SIMON and ANDREW’S home. Jesus’ disciples JAMES and JOHN also went.

 SIMON’S mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. SIMON told Jesus about the mother. And Jesus went and held her hand and helped her stand-up. The fever disappeared and she served them.

 That evening after sunset, people brought many people to Jesus; they brought all the sick and all the people with demons inside. All the people from town came to the house. Jesus healed many sick people, and Jesus threw-out many demons. Jesus didn’t let the demons speak, because the demons knew Jesus.

 The next morning before sunrise Jesus awoke and left the house. Jesus went outside the town to a lonely place to pray. SIMON and his friends came searching-for Jesus. They found Jesus and they said: “Everyone is searching-for You.”

 But Jesus said, “We must go to the other cities around here. I must preach to those people also. That is the reason I came.” Then Jesus traveled all around the country GALILEE, preaching in the Jewish churches and throwing-out demons.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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