***Introit (Psalm 103)***

P: The Lord is full of mercy and grace.

**C: He is slow to become angry; He has much faithful love.**

P: My soul, bless the Lord!

**C: Everything in me, bless His holy name!**

P: My soul, bless the Lord!

**C: Don’t forget all His good gifts.**

P: He forgives all your sins.

**C: He heals all your sickness.**

P: He saves your life from hell.

**C: He crowns you with faithful love and mercy.**

P: He satisfies you with good.

**C: He makes you young and strong again.**

P: God doesn’t punish us the same-as our sin deserves.

**C: He doesn’t pay us for our sin.**

P: The same-as the sky is high above the earth,

**C: His love is great for people honoring Him.**

P: The same-as East and West are far-apart,

**C: The same, God takes-away our sin from 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: Dear God, You are strength for all people trusting You. In Your mercy and power, protect us from all trouble that would hurt 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 43.

The Lord God says: “Don’t think about the things that happened long-ago. See, I am doing a new thing. Right-now it begins to happen. Can you see it? I will make a road through the dry places, and I will make rivers flowing through the desert. The WILD animals will honor Me, JACKALS and OSTRICHES will honor Me, because I give them water. I give rivers in the desert for My people to drink. I made these people for Myself, then they can announce praises for Me.

But Israel – you don’t pray to Me; you become bored with Me. You didn’t bring Me your sheep for burnt offering. You didn’t honor me with sacrifices. I didn’t make your offerings become a burden for you. I didn’t demand INCENSE to make you tired.

You spend no money on sweet smelling INCENSE for Me. You didn’t satisfy Me with your best sacrifices. Your sins burden Me. You make Me tired with your law breakings.

I am the one that forgives your wrongs. I do that for Myself, and I will not remember your sins.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from 2 Corinthians chapter 1.

You can trust God. We don’t tell you “Yes” and “No.” SILAS, TIMOTHY and I preached to you about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus is not “Yes” and “No.” God’s word in Jesus is always YES. All the promises of God, Jesus is the YES that makes the promises happen true. Now, through Christ we say, “Amen, let it happen,” to God’s glory. God gives us and you life with Christ. He chose us. He put His mark on us to show we belong to Him. He put His Spirit in our hearts to prove this.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 2.

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

Several days later Jesus came again to the city CAPERNAUM, and the story spread that Jesus came home. So-many people came together, they filled the house, and many must stand outside the door. Jesus preached God’s Word to them.

Then four men came, and they carried a man PARALYZED. But they couldn’t bring the man to Jesus through the crowd of people. They made a hole in the roof above Jesus. After making the opening, they lowered the man lying on the bed.

Happened that Jesus saw their strong faith, He said to the man PARALYZED, “My son, your sins are forgiven.”

Some law teachers sat in the house and thought, “Why did Jesus say that? He is insulting God. No man can forgive sins. Only God can forgive!”

Jesus knew their secret thoughts and Jesus said to them, “Why do you think evil in your hearts? Which is easy to say to this man PARALYZED: ‘Your sins are forgiven’ or ‘Stand-up, pick-up your bed and walk?’ I will show you that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins.” Then Jesus said to the man PARALYZED, “I tell you, stand-up, pick-up your bed and go home.”

Quickly, the man stood-up, picked-up his bed, and went home. They all were surprised and praised God, saying, “We never saw anything same-as this!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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