***Introit (Psalm 115)***

P: Lord, remember Your great mercy and love,

**C: Your mercy and love from long ago.**

P: You people who honor the Lord, trust Him.

C: He is your help and protection.

P: The Lord remembers us and will bless us.

**C: He will bless His people Israel and His priests.**

P: The Lord will bless all people who honor Him.

**C: Both humble and important people.**

P: We praise the Lord!

**C: Now and forever, praise the Lord!**

**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 know that we are not strong. Use Your great power. Protect us from all enemies and troubles that hurt our body. Protect us from all evil thoughts that attack and hurt our soul. 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 Genesis chapter 17.

 ABRAM was 99 years old. The Lord came to ABRAM and said, “I am God Almighty. Follow Me, and be innocent. Then I will make My promise for you, and I will make your family very large.”

 ABRAM bowed down, his face to the ground. God said, “Look, I make My promise for you. You will become the father of many nations. Your name will not be ABRAM. Your name will be ABRAHAM, because I made you the father of many nations.”

 “I will give you many children. Your family will become nations. Your children will become kings. I will make My promise for you and your family for all their generations. That will be an eternal promise. I will be God for you and your children after you.”

 Then God told ABRAHAM, “Your wife, you will not name her SARAI. Her name will be SARAH. I will bless her. She will give birth and I will give you a son. I will bless her and she will be a mother of nations. Her children will be kings.”

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Romans chapter 5.

 God makes us righteous through faith. That means we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. With faith in Jesus, we have God’s grace. His grace makes us stand strong and we are full with joy and hope while we wait for God’s glory.

 More than that we are happy in suffering. We know suffering gives us strength for patience. And this patience helps us pass the test, and that gives us hope. And this hope will never disappoint us. Why? Because God gave us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with love.

 When we were weak people, Christ died for us. At the correct time Christ died for sinners. Very few people will die to save a holy person. Maybe someone is willing to die to save a good person. But God shows He loves us, because while we are sinners, Christ died for us.

 Now His blood makes us righteous and we know truly that He will save us from God’s anger. Before, we were God’s enemies, but the death of His Son made us become God’s friends. Now we are His friends and we know truly that His life will save us. More than that, we rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus made us friends with God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 8.

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

 Jesus and His disciples traveled to the towns in CAESAREA PHILIPPI. While they traveled, Jesus asked His disciples, “Who do people say I am?”

 The disciples answered, “JOHN the BAPTIZER. Other people say ELIJAH. Other people say You are one of the prophets.”

 Jesus asked them, “Who do you say I am?”

 Peter answered, “You are the Christ.”

 Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about Him. Then Jesus began to teach His disciples: “The Son of Man must suffer much. The Jewish leaders, priests, and Law teachers will reject Me, kill Me, and then after three days I will arise alive.” Jesus spoke very clearly to them.

 But PETER took Jesus away from the other disciples and began to criticize Jesus. Jesus turned around and looked at His disciples. He criticized PETER and said, “Satan, behind Me! You follow people’s thinking, not God’s thinking.”

 Jesus called all the people together with His disciples. Jesus told them, “If you want to follow Me, you must give-up your wants, pick-up your cross, and follow Me. If you want to save your life, you will lose it. But if you will lose your life for Me and for the gospel, you will save it.

 It is worth nothing for a person to get all the world and then lose his soul in hell. A person can never pay enough to buy his soul again.

 If you are ashamed of Me today in this sinful world, then I will be ashamed of you on the day I come with the holy angels in the glory of God the Father.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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