***Introit (Psalm 34)***

P: O God, Your hand gives

**C: What every living thing needs.**

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good!

C: The person finding safety with Him is happy!

P: All God’s people, trust the Lord!

**C: People trusting Him have everything they need.**

P: Lions will become weak and hungry.

**C: But people who search for the Lord have every good thing.**

**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: Father of mercy, Your blessed Son came from heaven. He is the true bread giving life to the world. Christ is our bread of life. Give Jesus to live in us and let us live in Jesus. 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 First Kings chapter 19.

 King AHAB told his wife JEZEBEL everything ELIJAH did. He told how ELIJAH killed all her prophets. Then JEZEBEL sent a messenger to ELIJAH and said, “Let the gods punish me if I don’t kill you before this time tomorrow.”

 ELIJAH was afraid and he ran away. First he went to BEERSHEBA, in JUDAH. He left his servant there. Then ELIJAH traveled one whole day into the desert. He sat down under a tree and he asked God to let him die. He prayed, “Lord, I’m finished! Let me die. I am not better than my fathers.” Then he laid down and slept under the tree.

 An angel came and touched ELIJAH. The angel said, “Get up and eat.” ELIJAH looked around and saw bread baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. ELIJAH ate, drank, and laid down again.

 The angel of the Lord came again and touched ELIJAH. The angel said, “Get up and eat. Your journey is too much for you.” ELIJAH got up and ate and drank. That food gave him strength to travel 40 days and 40 nights until he arrived at Mt. HOREB, the mountain of God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from Ephesians chapters 4 and 5.

 I say this agreeing with the Lord. You should no longer live the same as the non-Jews. Their minds are empty. They have no understanding. They don’t have the life God gives. Why? Because they don’t know God and their hearts are hard. They think sin is okay, so they fill themselves with many sinful pleasures and they are eager to do every kind of sin.

 That kind of sinful life didn’t teach you about Christ. You truly heard about Christ, and God showed you and taught you the truth in Jesus. He taught you to throw-away your old sinful self. That is your old way of life and your sinful desires ruined that old way of life.

 God taught you that you become new in your mind and spirit. You put on the new person. God made you to be truly righteous and holy the same-as Him.

 Therefore, you throw-away lies. All of you speak the truth to everyone. We all belong to each other. When you are angry, don’t sin. When the sun sets, your anger should be finished. Don’t give the devil an opportunity.

 If a person steals, he should stop stealing. He should work and use his hands to do good. Then he can earn something to share with poor people.

 Don’t say things that hurt people. Say only good words to build up people who need encouragement. That gives grace to the people listening to you.

 Don’t make God’s Holy Spirit sad. God gave you the Holy Spirit as His promise that He saves you. Now, throw-out all bitterness, anger, fighting, insulting people, and hatred. Show kindness and mercy to each other. Forgive each other, the same-as God forgave you in Christ Jesus.

 You are God’s children. Now live the same-as God. Live in love, the same-as Christ loved us. He loved us and gave-up Himself as a sweet smelling sacrifice to God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from John chapter 6.

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

 Jesus said to the people, “I am the bread of life. The person who comes to Me will not be hungry. The person who believes in Me will never be thirsty. But I told you that you have seen Me, but you still don’t believe. Everyone the Father gives-to-Me will come to Me. When a person comes to Me, I will never reject them.”

 “I came down from heaven, not to do what I want. I came to do what My Father wants. He sent Me. This is what He wants. All the people He gave Me, I should not lose anyone. And on the last day, I will raise them alive. That is what He wants. Everyone who sees the Son and believes Him, they will have eternal life. On the last day, I Myself will raise them alive. My Father wants that.”

 The Jewish people began complaining against Jesus, because Jesus said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” They said, “This is Jesus, JOSEPH’s son! We know His father and mother. How can He say, ‘I came down from heaven?’”

 Jesus answered, “Stop complaining. No one can come to Me unless the Father brings him. On the last day, I will raise alive that person. The Bible says, ‘God will teach them all.’ Everyone who pays attention to the Father and learns from Him, they all come to Me. No one has seen the Father. Only the One from God (Jesus) has seen the Father. I tell you the truth, the person who believes has eternal life.

 I am the bread of life. Long ago, your fathers ate manna in the desert, and they died. But here is bread from heaven. If a person eats this bread, he will not die. I am the living bread from heaven. If someone eats this bread, he will live forever. This bread is My body. I will give up My body so the world can have life.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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