***Introit (Psalm 31)***

P: Be strong! Be brave!

**C: All you people waiting for the Lord.**

P: I trust You, Lord.

C: I say, You are my God.

P: My time is in Your hand.

**C: Save me from my enemies and people persecuting me.**

P: Make Your face shine on Your servant.

**C: Save me with Your continuing love.**

**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 Jesus Christ, in all our needs, You are our support and protection. Always take-care of Your church, keep Your church safe. Use Your goodness to rule us, and bless us with Your peace. 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 50.

The Lord gave me His words of wisdom that I know the things to say to support tired people. Every morning He wakes me and helps me listen and learn.

The Lord God made me able to listen, and I don’t rebel. I don’t turn-away. I let them whip my back and pull my beard. They shamed me and spit in my face, and I didn’t hide my face. Because the Lord God helps me, they can’t shame me. I will be strong, and I will not be ashamed. God is near, and He will say I am innocent.

Who will argue against me? Stand up with me. Who is my enemy? Let him come to me! The Lord God helps me. Who will say I am guilty? Look, my enemies all wear-out the same as old clothes. MOTHS will eat them.

Who among you honors the Lord and obeys His servant? The person who walks in darkness and has no light, let that person trust the Lord. Let that person depend on his God.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The New Testament lesson is from James chapter 3.

My brothers, not many of you should become teachers. You know God will judge teachers more strictly.

We all sin in many ways. If anyone doesn’t sin in his speaking, then he is a perfect person and he can control his whole body. We put bits into horses’ mouths to make them obey us, and we control their whole body. The same for ships. Ships are large, and strong winds push them. But a small RUDDER guides them where the PILOT wants to go. The same, the tongue is a small part in the body, but the tongue boasts much.

A small fire can spread and burn down a large forest. The tongue is a fire, a world of sin. The tongue makes our whole body become dirty with sin. The tongue burns our whole life, and hell starts that fire.

People can control all kinds of animals, birds, REPTILES, and water animals. But no one can control the tongue. The tongue is evil out of control and full of poison that kills.

We use our tongue to bless our Lord and Father, and we use our tongue to curse people, even though God made people the same-as Him. From the same mouth, we bless and curse. Brothers, that should not happen. Can one water-spring give you good water and bitter water both? Can a FIG tree grow OLIVES? Can a GRAPEVINE grow FIGS? The same, you don’t get fresh water from salt water.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Mark chapter 9.

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

Jesus, PETER, JAMES and JOHN came back to the other disciples. They saw a large crowd there, and some law teachers arguing with the disciples. The crowd saw Jesus, and they were amazed and ran to meet Jesus. Jesus asked, “What are you arguing about?”

One man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought my son to You. A spirit in him makes him mute. The spirit grabs him and throws him on the ground. His mouth FOAMS and he grinds his teeth and his body becomes very stiff. I asked your disciples to throw-out the spirit, but they couldn’t do it.”

Jesus said, “You unbelieving people! How long should I stay with you? How long should I be patient? Bring the boy to Me.”

They brought the boy to Jesus. When the evil spirit saw Jesus, the spirit shook the boy and threw him on the ground. The boy rolled around and his mouth FOAMED.

Jesus asked the father, “How long has this happened to him?”

The father answered, “Since he was a young child. Often the spirit throws him into the fire or into water to try to kill him. If You can do anything, show mercy and help us!”

Jesus said, “If You can? All things are possible for a person who believes.”

Right away, the father shouted, “I do believe! Help me in my not believing!”

Jesus saw that a crowd of people was coming, so Jesus commanded the unclean spirit and said, “You deaf and mute spirit, I command you to come out of the boy and never enter him again.” The spirit screamed and shook the boy terribly, then the spirit came out from the boy. The boy looked dead, and the people said, “He is dead!”

But Jesus grabbed the boy’s hand and helped him stand up. Jesus entered the house and His disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we throw-out the evil spirit?”

Jesus answered, “This kind will only come out with prayer.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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