***Introit (Psalm 117)***

P: Glory and honor are in-front-of God.

**C: We will bless the Lord now and forever. Praise the Lord!**

P: All nations, praise the Lord!

**C: All peoples, praise Him!**

P: His faithful love for us is great.

**C: The Lord’s faithfulness continues 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: Lord, You called us to enter Your kingdom through the narrow door. Give Your Word and Holy Spirit to guide us. Lead us now and always into the celebration with Your Son, Jesus Christ. 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 66.

 The Lord says, “I know their works and their thoughts. The time will happen that I will gather people from all nations and languages. They will come and see My glory. I will give them a proof, and I will send some of their people to the nations named TARSHISH, PUL, LUD, to people who shoot bows-and-arrows, to TUBAL, JAVAN, and to distant lands. Those places have not-yet heard about Me or saw My glory. I will send people to announce My glory to the nations.”

 “My people Israel bring their GRAIN offering in clean bowls to the Lord’s temple.” The Lord says, “The same, they will bring all your brothers from the nations the same-as an offering to the Lord. They will bring them on horses, in chariots, on beds, on donkeys, on CAMELS to My holy mountain in JERUSALEM. I will accept some of them for priests and LEVITES,” says the Lord.

 “I will make a new heaven and a new earth to continue in-front-of Me,” says the Lord, “and your family and your name will continue. From new moon to new moon and from worship day to worship day, all people will come to worship in-front-of Me.” The Lord announces this.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*There are two choices for the New Testament lesson, a shorter reading from Hebrews 12 or a longer reading from Hebrews 12. Choose one.*

*The shorter reading.*

The New Testament lesson from Hebrews chapter 12.

 You are fighting against sin, but you have not-yet suffered bleeding in that fight. Did you forget how God encourages you as His sons?

God’s word says: “My son, don’t think nothing about the Lord disciplining you. When He corrects you, don’t give-up. Because the Lord disciplines the person He loves. And He punishes every son He accepts.”

 You continue going because God disciplines you. He shows you are His sons. Fathers discipline their sons. All people experienced that. If your Father doesn’t discipline you, then you are not His true children, you are not His sons. We all had human fathers discipline us, and we respected them. Much more we should honor the Father of spirits and live.

 Human fathers disciplined us for a short time the same-as they thought best. But God disciplines us for our good. Then we can experience His holiness. Right now, all discipline feels painful. But later, after God disciplines and trains people, discipline grows the peaceful fruit of righteousness in those people.

 Therefore, lift your tired hands. Stand and make strong your weak KNEES. Walk on straight paths. Then what is weak will not fall and get hurt, but will become stronger.

 Work for peace with everyone, and for holiness. If you are not holy, you will not see the Lord. Make sure everyone has God’s grace. Don’t let bitter feelings grow and cause trouble. A bitter heart ruins many people. No one should do sexual sins or live not-holy lives the same-as ESAU. He sold his inheritance for one meal. And you know that later he wanted to get his blessing, but his father rejected him. ESAU had no opportunity to repent, no-matter he cried and wanted to change.

 You didn’t come to something that you could touch, to a hot fire, darkness, sadness, a storm, a trumpet sound, or a voice speaking. Those people begged that God will not speak to them. God commanded, “If anything, even an animal, touches the mountain, stone that to death,” and that command was too-much for the people. And the sight was so-terrible, MOSES said, “I am shaking in fear.”

 That is not you. You came to Mount ZION, the city of the living God, the heavenly JERUSALEM. Here are thousands and thousands of angels in joyful meeting, and the church of God's first-born people with their names written in heaven. Here is God, the Judge of all. Here are the spirits of the righteous people that God made perfect. And here is Jesus, giving us a new promise with God, and the blood sprinkled that tells us better things than ABEL’s blood.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

*The longer reading.*

The New Testament lesson from Hebrews chapter 12.

 You are fighting against sin, but you have not-yet suffered bleeding in that fight. Did you forget how God encourages you as His sons?

God’s word says: “My son, don’t think nothing about the Lord disciplining you. When He corrects you, don’t give-up. Because the Lord disciplines the person He loves. And He punishes every son He accepts.”

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 Don’t reject God’s word. God’s prophets on earth warned people. People rejected that warning, and God punished the people. Then if we reject God’s warning from heaven, we can’t escape punishment.

 Long ago, God’s voice shook the earth. But now He promised, “One more time I will shake the earth and the skies.” “One more time” means God will take-away the weak things that can shake, the physical things God made. Then the things that can’t shake will continue.

 We will thank God because we have a kingdom that can’t shake. We will worship God in a way pleasing Him, with respect and honor, because our God is a powerful fire.

This is the word of the Lord.

C: (copy) Thanks give to God.

The Gospel lesson is from Luke chapter 13.

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

 While Jesus was traveling to Jerusalem, He went from one town to another town and taught the people. A man asked Jesus, “Lord, will only a few people become saved?”

 Jesus said, “Struggle to go in through the narrow door. I tell you, many people will try to enter, but they can’t. After the Lord reigning in the house gets-up and closes the door, you will be-standing outside and knocking on the door. You will say, ‘Lord, open for us.’ But the Lord will answer, ‘I don’t-know where you come from.’

 Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with You, and You taught in our city.’

 But the Lord will say, ‘I don’t-know where you come from. Go-away from Me! You always do evil things.’ Then you will cry and grind-your-teeth, because you will see ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB and all the prophets in God’s Kingdom, but God will throw you out. People will come from the East and West, North and South and will eat in God’s kingdom.

 You see, some that are last will become first, and some that are first will become last."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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