

And so we move into Kingdomtide or Ordinary Time, and the Lectionary begins the journey of challenging us again to live out the message and mission of Jesus that we have been remembering through the events of the Church Calendar so far. This year the new season begins with a confrontational question – to what will we give our allegiance: the Reign of God or some other power?

May our worship this week and in the weeks to come empower us to give our allegiance to Christ, and the Reign of God that he lived and preached, alone.

## INTRODUCTIONS

*For use by lectors, in order of service, parish bulletins and magazines*

### **The First Reading** - 1 Samuel 8: 4-11, [12-15], 16-20, [11: 14-15]

Israel wants a King and they come to Samuel to help make it happen. Samuel warns them of what might happen (you will get taxed, your sons will be sent to war, your daughters will be conscripted to serve, you will have your riches taken away, and become slaves yourself) and warns them that when you complain to God about the King you chose, God will not listen. But the people get what they ask for

### **The Psalm** - Psalm 138

### **The Second Reading** - 2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5: 1

Paul explains his hope and faith in God that compels him to preach, for as God raised Christ, so God will raise all who believe in Christ. This gives us hope and perseverance in the face of the troubles we must deal with in this life.

### **The Gospel Reading** - Mark 3: 20-35

The Gospel Lesson steps back in Mark to some stories that were not covered earlier in the year when we started reading from this Gospel. This is an interesting text that includes Jesus' relationship to his family, and his relationship to the scribes.

Click here to view lessons -

[http://bible.oremus.org/?show\\_adj=no&passages=1%20Samuel%208:%204-11,%20\[12-15\],%2016-20,%20\[11:%2014-15\]%0A%20BOR%0AGenesis%203:%208-13%0A%20Acw%20Psalm%20138%0A%20BOR%0A%20Acw%20Psalm%20130%0A%202%20Corinthians%204:%2013%20-%205:%201%0AMark%203:%2020-35](http://bible.oremus.org/?show_adj=no&passages=1%20Samuel%208:%204-11,%20[12-15],%2016-20,%20[11:%2014-15]%0A%20BOR%0AGenesis%203:%208-13%0A%20Acw%20Psalm%20138%0A%20BOR%0A%20Acw%20Psalm%20130%0A%202%20Corinthians%204:%2013%20-%205:%201%0AMark%203:%2020-35)

## COLLECTS OF THE DAY

O God,  
the strength of all them that put their trust in thee;  
Mercifully accept our prayers;  
and because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without thee, grant us the help of thy grace,

that in keeping of thy commandments  
we may please thee both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### Collect Two

God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you:  
Mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you, grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you, both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1

We enter God's house on the appointed day, leaving behind uninformed legalism  
and seeking the true purpose of our worship. We appeal, "O compassionate Lord,"  
and respond , "Help us."

For our archbishops and bishops, that they may wisely discern what is  
truly redemptive for the Church of Ireland. O compassionate Lord. **Help us.**

For our diocesan bishop \_\_\_\_\_ that he may prosper in his pastoral duties and  
find strength for his work. O compassionate Lord. **Help us.**

For all members of the Church of Ireland , that  
they may stand ready to serve and work for the up-building of Christ's church.  
O compassionate Lord. **Help us.**

For the body of saints in the Anglican Communion, at home  
and abroad, that it may celebrate anew, oneness and holiness in Christ Jesus and go  
forward with the gospel. O compassionate Lord. **Help us.**

For communities in city or country, that your Holy Spirit may assist all leaders in  
finding solutions to the many problems which prevail across our land. O  
compassionate Lord. **Help us.**

Holy Spirit, pardon and cleanse us to make us truly free, so that your praise may  
once again be upon our lips and in our lives. O compassionate Lord. **Help us.**

Come among us as comforter, enlightener and healer to the honour of your name,  
O God.

Amen.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2

*Presider or deacon*

As brothers and sisters of Christ, let us do the will of God by interceding in a spirit of faith for the needs of all.

*Deacon or other leader*

For this holy gathering and for the people of God in every place.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all nations, peoples, tribes, clans, and families.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all that is good and bountiful for the world.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For all those in danger and need, the sick and the suffering, the hungry and the oppressed, travelers and prisoners.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the dying and the dead.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves, our families, and those we love.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Saint \_\_\_\_\_ (parish name) and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

*Presider*

God, who raised your Son from the dead, hear the prayers we offer this day, renew the world to its true nature, and bring us into your presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **POST COMMUNION**

Eternal Father,  
we thank you for nourishing us  
with these heavenly gifts.  
May our communion strengthen us in faith,  
build us up in hope,  
and make us grow in love;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **PRAYERS**

Your hand is upon your people, O God,  
to guide and protect them through the ages.  
Keep in your service

those you have called and anointed,  
that the powers of this world may not overwhelm us,  
but that, secure in your love,  
we may carry out your will  
in the face of all adversity. Amen.

O God our ruler and shepherd,  
you anointed Jesus  
as the king and servant of your people.  
Make us attentive to your word,  
that we may accept your reign over us  
and serve you alone. Amen.

Friends in Christ,  
God invites us to hold the needs of our sisters and brothers  
as dear to us as our own needs.  
Loving our neighbors as ourselves,  
we offer our thanksgivings and our petitions  
on behalf of the church and the world.

*...Intercessions....*

Hear our prayers, God of power,  
and through the ministry of your Son  
free us from the grip of the tomb,  
that we may desire you as the fullness of life  
and proclaim your saving deeds to all the world. Amen.

As you heard the prayer of Isaac and Rebekah, O God,  
and guided them in the way of your love,  
so listen now to those who call upon you.

*...Intercessions....*

Move us to praise your gracious will,  
for in Christ Jesus you have saved us from the deeds of death  
and opened for us the hidden ways of your love.  
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Lord God, friend of those in need,  
your Son Jesus has untied our burdens  
and healed our spirits.  
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened,  
those seeking healing,  
those in need within the church and the world.

*...Intercessions....*

Hear our prayers  
that we may love you with our whole being  
and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen.

Creator God,  
you call us to love and serve you  
with body, mind, and spirit  
through loving your creation  
and our sisters and brothers.  
Open our hearts in compassion

and receive these petitions  
on behalf of the needs of the church and the world.

*...Intercessions....*

Holy One,  
hear our prayers and make us faithful stewards  
of the fragile bounty of this earth  
so that we may be entrusted with the riches of heaven. Amen.

We praise your abiding guidance, O God,  
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,  
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.

We offer these prayers of love  
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors,  
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

*...Intercessions....*

Loving God,  
open our ears to hear your word  
and draw us closer to you,  
that the whole world may be one with you  
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of mercy and healing,  
you who hear the cries of those in need,  
receive these petitions of your people  
that all who are troubled  
may know peace, comfort, and courage.

*...Intercessions....*

Life-giving God,  
heal our lives,  
that we may acknowledge your wonderful deeds  
and offer you thanks from generation to generation  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

God of salvation,  
who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost,  
hear our prayers  
on behalf of those who are lost in our day,  
receiving these petitions and thanksgivings  
with your unending compassion.

*...Intercessions....*

Redeeming Sustainer,  
visit your people  
and pour out your strength and courage upon us,  
that we may hurry to make you welcome  
not only in our concern for others,  
but by serving them  
generously and faithfully in your name. Amen.

Unlike earthly kings,  
you, O Lord, are ever steadfast and faithful.  
You sent us your Son, Jesus the Christ,  
to rule over us, not as a tyrant,

but as a gentle shepherd.  
Keep us united and strong in faith,  
that we may always know your presence in our lives,  
and, when you call us home,  
may we enter your heavenly kingdom  
where you live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

God of judgment and mercy,  
when we hide ourselves in shame,  
you seek us out in love.  
Grant us the fullness of your forgiveness,  
that as one people, united by your grace,  
we may stand with Christ against the powers of evil. Amen.

## LECTIONARY NOTES 1

### REFLECTIONS ON THEME:

The first Sunday in Kingdomtide starts the second half of the year with a rather direct challenge to our allegiances. Whether the complementary or semi-continuous readings are used, the same basic theme seems to come through – where do we place our allegiance, and to whom do we give our obedience and devotion. In the Samuel reading, which marks the start of the monarchy in Israel, the people reveal their struggle to remain committed to God. In the conversation between God and Samuel, God relates Israel's history of turning away from God, and views this call for a king as just another case of misplaced allegiance and a quest to be like the other nations, instead of living as an alternative community under God's Reign. In the Genesis narrative, a similar dynamic is played out in a more personal way as God confronts the man and woman who have turned away from obedience to God and followed the temptation of the serpent. The other readings all give an indication as to the reasons why we are tempted to turn away – the struggles and suffering of life. In Psalm 138 the attitude is one of praise for God's unfailing love, protection and answer to prayer, while in Psalm 130 the attitude is one of supplication for God's grace to rescue the psalmist in time of trouble. In both cases, though the intent is clear – no matter what life may throw at us, our faith needs to remain in God. Similarly in the Corinthians reading, Paul describes the troubles that we experience in this life as small compared with the glory which awaits us in Christ. It is this hope that enables us to stay faithful, and to share the message of God's grace, even as we face suffering in this life. Finally, Jesus faces persecution of his own, both from his family who call him crazy, and from the religious leaders who claim that he is demonised. His response is decisive though, in two ways. Firstly, he reveals the absurdity in claiming that his power to defeat the devil comes from the devil, which implies that it can only come from God. Secondly, he embraces all who obey God, who give their hearts in allegiance to God's Reign as he has done, as his family. The message of this week, then, is that life is hard and will bring suffering, especially when we try to live with integrity and faith. However when we keep our allegiance with God we have God's promise that God will sustain us, and we have the hope in the eternal life that God promises us. Finally, in this life, we also have the joy of a family of faith with whom we can share our tears, our joys and our hope, while helping one another to stay faithful to God.

### CONNECTING WITH LIFE:

#### Global Application:

One of the reasons for the injustice in our world is that human beings are constantly being called to give their allegiance to things that do not bring justice, life and equality. While there is more than enough wealth in our world to provide for everyone, we choose rather to

give our allegiance to consumerism, materialism, selfish corruption, and unnecessarily costly budgets for everything from elections to state celebration to weaponry. Where we could find security and peace through collaboration, mutual understanding, creative resource sharing, and acceptance of differences, we prefer to give our allegiance to divisive exclusivity, factionalism, stereotyping, blaming, self-protectiveness, and power games. The list goes on – we continue to fall for the same temptations to power, wealth, and lust that have always tempted humanity, in spite of the ongoing suffering that this causes. For those who would heed God's call to work for justice, the challenge is a tough one. We must begin by shifting our allegiance away from the "kingdoms of this world" to God's Reign, holding on to our hope in Christ – both for justice in this world and eternal life in the next – in order to remain strong against the inevitable repercussions that will come and to stay faithful in spite of the suffering that refusing to "buy in" to the values of the world can bring. However, as more and more people make the shift to faithful allegiance to God's Reign, so the reality of justice, peace, and love spreads and gains ground in our world. We can already see this happening, and it gives us hope. In addition, as we continue to trust that God is at work with us, in us, and through us, we can commit to a promise of a new world that we may never see realised, but for which we know we must give our lives if it is ever to happen.

### **Local Application:**

Each day brings with it myriad challenges to our allegiance to God's Reign. In our relationships, we are constantly challenged to abandon our commitments to integrity, fidelity, and mutual submission in favour of "no-strings-attached", instant gratification of our own desires and urges. In our homes we are tempted to give up our quest for intimacy and mutual support, care and interest in favour of the passive and seemingly easy alternative of "entertainment" or completely independent activities. In our neighbourhoods, it is tempting to avoid the struggles of learning to understand and listen to each other by grouping together with those who think like us, look like us and hold the same values, while separating ourselves from those who are different. Even in our faith communities, we easily turn away from the tough inclusivity and love that the Gospel demands in favour of exclusivity, legalism, hypocrisy and judgment of others. Ultimately all of these challenges to our allegiance to God's Reign appear to promise life, pleasure and/or security, while, in fact, they rob us of life and move us further away from the life-giving activity and presence of God. This week we face the call to examine our hearts, get honest about where we place our allegiance, and ensure that we turn soundly back to God in any and every area where our allegiance may be faltering. Such self-examination (personal and communal) can be painful, but it is also the only way to remain connected with God's life-giving Spirit.

### **LECTIONARY NOTES      2**

#### ***1 Samuel 15:34-16:13:***

- What does it mean for God to be sorry God did something? I hope God is never sorry/disappointed over something done in relation to me! What weighty words.
- This is a classic story of God calling an unexpected person. David seems to be the last choice of all the brothers - except to God.
- "how long will you grieve?" God asks Samuel. Sometimes we can get bogged down in bad decisions, plans gone wrong, etc., that distract us from following God. God says - Get on with it. There are other plans. Other ways I can work. You just have to keep moving, keep being open to God's creativity.
- "for the Lord does not see as mortals see" - THANK GOD for that!!! God sees insides, not outsides. God sees potential, not past.



**Psalm 20:**

- This is a psalm that is a prayer of blessing for someone else: "May God do \_\_\_\_ for you." Do you pray blessings on others? Do you let them know you are doing so for them?
- "May [God] grant you your heart's desire, and fulfill all your plans." - What is *your* true heart's desire?
- "Some take pride in chariots, some in horses, but our pride is in the name of the Lord our God." Well said. Where does your pride come from - what do you put your pride in?

**2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17:**

- "we walk by faith, not by sight." I've played trust-building games at camp when I was little, where one partner would be blindfolded, the other leading the blindfolded one on a "faith walk." For those who have the gift of sight, this kind of play is a real challenge. God asks us to make our whole life plan based on where God leads, not the road that *we may see* ahead of us. That's a challenge!
- "we make it our aim to please God." Sometimes when I've struggled to know what was right or wrong in a situation, I've reframed the issue: "What action would be most pleasing to God?" Looking at it this way has helped - something may not be *wrong* per se, but I can sometimes figure out what might please God the most.
- "well known to God." Ah, Paul and his ego. Are you well known to God? I hope so, but I'm not always so confident of myself as Paul ;) "to boast about us." Paul uses the word boast more than any other person in the scriptures. This has always been my struggle with Paul. I know what he's saying, but the way he says it...
- "we regard no one from a human point of view" - instead we're called to see each other through Jesus' eyes, through God's eyes. How does that change how you see people?
- "new creations" - a new chance in Christ. Clean slate. Fresh hope.
- - by Beth Quick

**SERMON OUTLINE**

**Mk 3:20-35 the crowd came together again Jesus continues his ministry and his popularity spreads...**

1. The People 20: flock to hear him preach and teach – simple ordinary folk – totally unprejudiced unlike the religious authorities with whom he was in controversy... Such was the throng of people *that they could not even eat.*

2. The Problem 21: As "Jesus Mania" spread it caused not only controversy with the authorities but also embarrassment to his family and they tried to curtail his activity - *<sup>21</sup>When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.'*

3. The Possession 22 – alleged by the scribes who had travelled *<sup>22</sup>down from Jerusalem* – claiming that Jesus was possessed by Satan & was using his power to perform miracles:- *'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.'* Jesus counters these claims with perfect wisdom...



4. The Parables 23-35: *'How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup>If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup>And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup>And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand – your accusation doesn't make sense! You are guilty of blasphemy when you criticise me – <sup>29</sup> whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin'* Again his family try to intervene -<sup>31</sup> *Then his mother and his brothers came... and called him. – but Jesus emphasises the importance of the spiritual family of the kingdom:- <sup>35</sup>Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'*

- by Norman Porteous

## ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

### Samuel - Frederick Buechner

"Samuel was a combination - prophet, judge, and one-man band. When the old curmudgeon wasn't out in the field trying to fight off the Philistine guerrillas, he was riding his circuit trying to keep the tribes of Israel honest, and when he wasn't doing that, he was giving them hell for cheating on Yahweh every time a new fertility god showed up with a come-hither look in his eye..."

<http://frederickbuechner.com/content/weekly-sermon-illustration-samuel>

**We Need Some Crazy Christians** - Episcopal Bishop of North Carolina, Michael B. Curry. Vocation based on Mark 3: 20-35. On the Faith & Leadership site.

<http://www.faithandleadership.com/sermons/michael-b-curry-we-need-some-crazy-christians>

**Tilted Haloes** -- sermon based on Mark 3:20-35 by James Weekley from SermonSuite.

<http://www.sermonsuite.com/free.php?i=25182&key=ajoUip92Qkfxbtvt>

**Why Jesus? Pt 4: Jesus the Home Wrecker.** Bishop William H Willimon, Day 1. Mark 3:20-35.

[http://day1.org/2201-why\\_jesus\\_part\\_4\\_jesus\\_the\\_home\\_wrecker](http://day1.org/2201-why_jesus_part_4_jesus_the_home_wrecker)

## CHILDREN

**Worshipping with Children**, Proper 5B, Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown, 2012.

<http://worshippingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2012/05/year-b-proper-5-10th-sunday-in-ordinary.html>

**On the Chancel Steps** . "No matter where you go" Uses 2 Corinthians 5:1 - to focus on the general traveling and moving around of summer vacation, but keep this sermon in mind when you have those in your congregation who move 'away.'

<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2012/05/27/where/>

"Sermon of the Week," Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Colouring Pages, Puzzles. Sermons4Kids.com.

<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

## HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Crown Him With Many Crowns

My Jesus I Love Thee

[www.churchnewsireland.org](http://www.churchnewsireland.org)

Be Thou My Vision  
O Jesus, I Have Promised  
The Lord Reigns  
How Long?  
I Give You My Heart  
God Of Justice  
May The Words Of My Mouth