

How do we understand power? How do we use power effectively and creatively? In what ways does the view of power and authority that God's Reign offers lead us into true allegiance to God and into lives in which our small contributions make a difference (as we've explored over the last two weeks)? These are some of the questions that the Lectionary raises this week, and, in our world of power struggles, they are important questions to answer.

May we learn to embrace the weak, serving and generous power of Christ through our liturgy this week.

## INTRODUCTIONS

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

### **2 Samuel 1 : 1, 17-27**

We have been hearing each week something of Israel becoming a kingdom under Saul, with the historian's knowledge that it would end tragically. David led the army very successfully, but in a battle King Saul and his three sons died. This lament portrays David's unwavering loyalty to his king.

### *or* **Wisdom 1 : 13-15, 2 : 23-24**

Not long before Jesus's time, some Jewish thinkers perceived that if death means a total end, it is wasteful. So they began to say that God created humanity for fulness of life, imperishable and eternal.

**Psalms 9:9-20:** A song of faith in God's care for the poor and weak, and a plea for God to bring down the wicked, reveal to the nations that they are merely human, and rescue the psalmist from his enemies so that he can praise God again.

OR Psalm 133: A psalm in praise of unity between God's people and the blessing of life that God gives to those who live in unity.

OR Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32: A celebration of God's unfailing love, and a song of praise for the way sailors have witnessed God's power in the storms that arise and the way, when they call out to God, the storm is stilled.

### **2 Corinthians 8 : 7-15**

For several years, Paul organised financial support from the churches in Asia to help relieve poverty among the Christians of Jerusalem. This passage is part of his appeal to 'corinth for generosity that corresponds to Christ's own self-giving for our sakes.

### **Mark 5 : 21-43**

Here is a story within a story. Jesus responds to a father's desperate plea for his daughter, and on his way performs an almost accidental healing. But always this work too power from Jesus.

## COLLECTS OF THE DAY

### **Collect One**

O God, the protector of all that trust in thee,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy;  
Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy;  
that, thou being our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal,  
that we finally lose not the things eternal:

Grant this, O heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake our Lord.

### Collect Two

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:  
Increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide,  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we finally lose not the things eternal:  
Grant this, heavenly Father,  
for Jesus Christ's sake, our Lord.

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 1

Heavenly Father, when our yoke is heavy, when our patience is short, when silence is deafening, by your Holy Spirit remind us of your great faithfulness, and have compassion on us.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Holy Spirit, you make the bonds of love between warriors on the field of battle "stronger than lions." Make our love for each other equally wonderful, as we struggle together on earth against all the forces of sin, death and the devil.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Holy Spirit, hear our prayers when we are in the depths of despair, and reform our laments into praise, as we sense that the Lord Jesus Christ is bearing our burden.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, as we share our gifts for your work, we do it because we first learned it from you. Receive our thanks for your Holy Spirit's encouragement to be generous, and bless all whose needs are attended to.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you know the cost of healing. You felt the power leave from yourself for the sake of others. Make us willing also to expend ourselves for another.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

Holy Spirit, you remind us that the seasons of our lives pass quickly, and at the end of our time, you have promised us a new home. Yet we are bold to ask for your mercies for those who need you here and now \_\_\_\_\_.

Loving God, you hear our prayers: **You live among us.**

The love of God has won. The new life has begun. **Amen.**

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 2

*Presider or deacon*

Let us offer prayers to God for the healing touch of Christ among all peoples.

*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 mercy, peace, and justice in the world.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the dying and the dead.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For ourselves, our families, our companions, and all those we love.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with the Blessed Virgin Mary and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Lord.**

*Presider*

Generous and life-giving God, whose Son became poor for our sake, hear the prayers we offer this day and pour your abundance on all your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## **POST COMMUNION**

Eternal God,  
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,  
you have fed us at the table of life and hope.  
Teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,  
that all the world may acknowledge  
the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

## **PRAYERS**

### **Thematic**

O God,  
sustain us in the complexity of our humanity  
as you sustained David--  
playing the harp of youth,

throwing stones at giant problems,  
loving our friends beyond wisdom,  
dancing worship,  
mourning children,  
breaking our hearts in psalms, and  
longing for warmth in our old bones. Amen.

**Intercessory**

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 may be inserted concluding with:*

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 may be inserted concluding with:*

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 may be inserted concluding with:*

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 may be inserted concluding with:*

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 may be inserted concluding with:*

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 may be inserted concluding with:*

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 may be inserted concluding with:*

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.

### **Scripture**

God of hope,  
you are ruler of night as well as day,  
guardian of those who wander in the shadows.  
Be new light and life  
for those who live in the darkness of despair,  
for prisoners of guilt and grief,  
for victims of fantasy and depression,  
that even where death's cold grip tightens,  
we may know the power of the one  
who conquered fear and death. Amen.

Companion in life and death,  
your love is steadfast and never ends;  
our weeping may linger with night,  
but you give joy in the morning.  
Touch us with your healing grace  
that, restored to wholeness,  
we may live out our calling as your resurrection people. Amen.

### **Offertory**

God of all grace and healing, your power flows in us and through us, but flows best when we live in the present and move into the future with faith in you. Like the woman who boldly reached for the hem of Jesus' robe and was filled with healing grace, so may we have the faith that this power can flow through us as well. The gifts we give in faith this morning will enable us, through Christ's body the church, to bring healing and wholeness to this community and to the whole world. In the holy name of our savior and great physician we pray. Amen. *Mark 5:21-43*)

**LECTIONARY NOTES     1**  
**REFLECTIONS ON THEME:**

The question of authority speaks through all of the readings this week, including both the Gospel and its related readings and the continuous Old Testament passage. The journey of David continues in the continuous Old Testament narrative. After last weeks' account of his anointing, this week we read of how the young shepherd calls on God's authority to defeat the giant, Goliath, and then is given authority over Saul's army. An interesting feature of this passage is the difference between Saul, whose authority is threatened by this new leader, and Saul's son Jonathan, who would be expected to be threatened by a possible usurper of his throne, but who loves David selflessly and devotedly. In the Gospel, the question of authority is raised through the story of Jesus calming the storm. Here Jesus is shown to have access to the authority and power of God not just over people, sickness and evil spirits, but over the natural world as well. Both of these passages reflect on authority as power or strength or "dominance over". Paul's letter to the Corinthians, however, gives a different perspective on authority. It is in the weakness and suffering of Paul and the other apostles, and their commitment to the Gospel in spite of their hardships, that Paul's authority is revealed, and it is on the basis of this that Paul calls on the Christians to accept his ministry and his message. The picture of authority is further rounded out by the other readings for this week. In Job, which relates to the Gospel, God's authority over Creation is revealed, both in the fact that God has laid the earth's foundations, and in the way God sets the boundaries for the sea (which Jesus "imposed" through his command). In the Psalms God's authority is proclaimed over the nations (Psalm 9) as the psalmist pleads with God to bring justice and show the nations that they are merely human, and, again, over the sea (Psalm 107) as God both raises up and calms the storm. In Psalm 133 God's authority is not specifically mentioned, but the blessing of life forever more that God gives to those who live in unity is a sign both of God's authority over our lives, and of the authority we enjoy together as God's people. This week, then, we are invited to continue the journey from committing our allegiance to God's Reign alone (two weeks ago) to recognising the impact that small contributions can have (last week), to living as those who are under God's authority while also, together as God's people, exercising authority in God's name as we bring life and justice to others.

### **CONNECTING WITH LIFE:**

**GLOBAL APPLICATION:** In many developing countries the abuse of power, the corruption in government and the violence between political and tribal factions reflects our struggle to use power for the good of all, and the damage that a hunger for power and dominance can cause. A similar reality is reflected in the often vitriolic and extremely divisive rhetoric that accompanies electioneering in developed nations, and especially the United States. On a global scale, the injustices from which the poor and weak suffer at the hands of the powerful and wealthy – including unfair trade practices, debt burdens that far outweigh any stimulus or aid that poor nations receive, human trafficking, and exploitation through policies that extract resources from local economies without sufficient concern for adequate payment or sustainability – hurts us all and contribute to the violence and instability of our world. There is no question, when we place the way power is used and managed in our world alongside the Gospel's teaching on power, submission, servanthood and sacrifice, that we need a new way to think about and practice power. We need the Gospel to shift our values away from a simplistic and naive embrace of all that is rich, dominant and strong, to recognise the power in weakness, simplicity, generosity and collaboration. We need to learn to share power instead of grasping and hoarding it. And we need to learn that all who are truly powerful operate under a higher authority that enables them to use their power for the common good, and not just for interest groups or individuals. The authority of Jesus which was derived from his submission to his Divine Parent is a challenging example for us, and the destructive power-hunger and paranoia that plagued Saul as he started to lose power is a strong warning. If our world is find peace



and justice we desperately need to face the broken power structures in our nations, our communities and our world.

**LOCAL APPLICATION:** We each deal with power relationships on a daily basis – between parents and children, between teachers and learners, between citizens and government, between employer and employee. In some of these relationships we hold power, and in others we don't. In some we own the "wealth" (be it expertise, opportunity, relationships, material possessions, or money) and in some we are the poor. The Gospel gives us clear challenges about how we navigate these power dynamics, and reminds us that the ultimate authority to which we answer, and which we are called to imitate, is that of Jesus, who always favours the poor and weak. On a personal level, our relationships thrive when we embrace mutuality, collaboration and service, as opposed to forced submission of spouses or children. On a community level, our organisations, churches, schools and neighbourhoods thrive when we embrace co-operation, collaboration, service and respect, as opposed to separation, legalism, self-interest and stereotyping. It may seem contradictory to say that it is in weakness and giving up our power that we find life and true authority, but Paul's example reveals the truth of this – as do the testimonies of thousands of Christ-followers since. Perhaps what we really need to learn is more of the David and Jonathan way of relationships and power, and less of the Saul and David. The only way to learn this is to open ourselves to the surprising and miraculous power of Jesus and the transforming message of the Gospel that he preached. (*Mark 5:21-43*)

## LECTIONARY NOTES 2

### **2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27:**

- David laments the deaths of both Jonathan, who he loved dearly, and Saul, who spent a lot of time trying to kill David. Could you give someone like Saul such a lament? Apparently, David was sympathetic to the obvious psychological distress Saul seemed to be in over David's rise to power.
- "greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women" David and Jonathan are constantly expressing their love for one another. What was their relationship like, do you think? Today, we don't encourage such emotional expressions from men, especially directed at other men.

### **Psalm 130:**

- A favorite Psalm. My favorite musical setting of this Psalm is the John Rutter *Requiem*, performed occasionally by my [childhood-church](#).
- Out of the depths - what are the depths from which you call to God? Do you remember to call to God from your lowest low?
- This psalm shows a great faith and hope in God's grace and forgiving mercy, unlike some psalms that are more bent on vengeance: "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?" It is a nice change.
- wait, wait, wait the psalmist says. I've read statistics before about how many *years* of our life we spending waiting in line for things. How much of your life do you spend waiting on God? Are you more patient about waiting in line for concert tickets than you are about waiting for God?
- Relate this Psalm to the text from 2 Samuel. They are both laments. Do you lament to God?



**2 Corinthians 8:7-15:**

- Paul 'butters up' the Corinthians, telling them they excel in everything else already, so no doubt they will excel in following the teachings he gives now.
- :11 "finish doing it" - Good advice for the church. How often do we get fired up with new ideas, new hope, new visions for our church, only to run out of steam and energy and creativity before we follow through?
- Paul is talking about a deep generosity - "your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance." Fair balance - do we have much of that today in terms of abundance and need? Hardly!

**Mark 5:21-43:**

- Synagogue leaders weren't always welcoming to Jesus and his teaching - and yet Jairus humbles himself and turns to Jesus in need. When was the last time you had to humble yourself?
- The woman knows just being near to Jesus, touching him, will bring her healing. Can you imagine her faith?
- The KJV of the Bible calls the young girl in this passage a "damsel." I just can't picture Jesus saying damsel, can you?! :)
- "something to eat" - the eating in passages like this is a sign confirming she's really alive and really human, not some spirit.
- The little girl's perspective is one we never get - we hear from everyone else. What do you think she was thinking when she was raised? Have you ever had a near-death experience?

By Beth Quick

**SERMON OUTLINE**

**Mark 5:21-43 He was by the lake...**

Jesus' popularity is at its height during his ministry in Galilee... We picture him *by the lake - a great crowd gathered round him* - a momentous & memorable day!

1. The Despair of the father – Jairus *one of the leaders of the synagogue* - J was his only hope - *fell at his feet<sup>23</sup> & begged him repeatedly, 'My little daughter is at the point of death. Come & lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, & live* – a humble heartfelt prayer – responded to by Jesus - *went with him*

2. The Desperation of the woman – came up to J in the crowd - *suffering from haemorrhages for 12 years – had spent all she had on doctors & cures – but only grew worse. Her last resort was J! came up behind him in the crowd & touched his cloak,*<sup>28</sup>*for she said, 'If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.'*<sup>29</sup>*Immediately her haemorrhage stopped. Her action was discovered by J – Who touched me? 31. Upon acknowledging what she had done she received J's blessing – 'your faith has made you well; go in peace, & be healed of your disease.'*

3. The Delight of the people – Meanwhile there was bad news - *'Your daughter is dead.'*  
35. But Jesus encouraged him: *'Do not fear, only believe.'* - went to the house - & *went in where the child was.*<sup>41</sup>*He took her by the hand & said to her, 'Talitha cum', which*

*means, 'Little girl, get up!' <sup>42</sup>And immediately the girl got up & began to walk about – to the delight of her parents/people - overcome with amazement. > Who is this character? None other than the Son of God – who heals the sick & raises the dead! – another amazing day in the life of Jesus! Truly it amazes us & inspires us to deeper faith in Him who is the Son of God*

*By Norman Porteous*

### ONLINE SERMON SOURCES

"A Daughter's Faith," the Rev. Sarah Jackson Shelton, Day 1  
[http://day1.org/1327-a\\_daughters\\_faith](http://day1.org/1327-a_daughters_faith)

"Two Lives Restored," John R. Donahue, SJ, *America: The National Catholic Weekly*  
[http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article\\_id=2159](http://www.americamagazine.org/content/article.cfm?article_id=2159)

Keeping the faith in Babylon - Barry J Robinson The synagogue ruler's daughter  
<http://www.spirit-net.ca/sermons/b-or13-keeping.php>

### CHILDREN

[Worshiping with Children](#), Including children in the congregation's worship, using the Revised Common Lectionary, Carolyn C. Brown, 2012.  
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.co.uk/2012/05/year-b-proper-8-13th-sunday-in-ordinary.html>

"Sermon of the Week," / "Mensajes para ninos," Sermons 4 Kids, Charles Kirkpatrick, Object Lessons & Children's Sermons, Coloring Pages, Puzzles.  
<http://www.sermons4kids.com/>

"That's Not Fair!" Frances Woodruff, On the Chancel Steps. Lectionary focus: 2 Corinthians 8:7-15  
<https://onthechancelsteps.wordpress.com/2012/06/17/fair/>

Children's Sermon, Weekly Devotions, Faith Formation Journeys. Scripture Focus: Mark 5:21-43  
<http://faithformationjourneys.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/childrens-sermon5th-july-1-2012-mark.html>

"Teachers and Teachings We Remember," Dianne Deming, Childrens Sermons Today,  
<http://childrenssermonstoday.blogspot.co.uk/2012/06/teachers-and-teachings-we-remember.html>

### HYMN SUGGESTIONS

O God Our Help In Ages Past  
For The Healing Of The Nations, Lord, We Pray With One Accord  
Fierce Raged The Tempest O'er The Deep  
God Is Our Strength And Refuge  
Jesus Calls Us O'er The Tumult  
How Long?  
O God Our Help  
Indescribable  
God Of Justice  
We All Bow Down

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