

Sunday 11th June Second Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Week

O Lord,
from whom alone all good things come:
grant that by your holy inspiration
we may think those things that are good,
and by your merciful guiding may perform them;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

1 Samuel 8.4-11, 8.16-20

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, 'You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.' ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, 'Give us a king to govern us.' Samuel prayed to the Lord, ⁷ and the Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸ Just as they have done to me, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. ⁹ Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.' ¹⁰ So Samuel reported all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, 'These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots; ¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle and donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the Lord will not answer you in that day.' ¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, 'No! but we are determined to have a king over us, ²⁰ so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.'

Psalms 138 (APBA p. 369)

- ¹ I will give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart:
even before the gods will I sing your praises.
- ² I will bow down toward your holy temple
and give thanks to your name:
because of your faithfulness and your loving-kindness,
for you have made your name and your word
supreme over all things.
- ³ At a time when I called to you, you gave me answer:
and put new strength within my soul.
- ⁴ All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord:
for they have heard the words of your mouth;
- ⁵ And they shall sing of the ways of the Lord:
that the glory of the Lord is great.
- ⁶ For though the Lord is exalted, he looks upon the lowly:
and he comprehends the proud from afar.

⁷ Though I walk in the midst of danger,
yet will you preserve my life:
you will stretch out your hand against the fury of my
enemies, and your right hand shall save me.

⁸ The Lord will complete his purpose for me:
your loving-kindness, O Lord, endures for ever;
do not forsake the work of your own hands.

2 Corinthians 4.13-5.1

4 ¹³ But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—‘I believed, and so I spoke’—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸ because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. **5** ¹ For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Mark 3.20-35

²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, ‘He has gone out of his mind.’ ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, ‘He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.’ ²³ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, ‘How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. ²⁸ ‘Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin’— ³⁰ for they had said, ‘He has an unclean spirit.’ ³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, ‘Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.’ ³³ And he replied, ‘Who are my mother and my brothers?’ ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.’

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