

Communion by Extension

Hymns

379 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us
153 Eternal Father strong to save
184 For the beauty of the earth
238 Go forth and tell

Collect

O 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 your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen

A New Testament reading – Allison

1 Samuel 3: 1 – 10 [11 – 20]

Now the boy Samuel was ministering to the LORD under Eli. The word of the LORD was rare in those days; visions were not widespread.

At that time Eli, whose eyesight had begun to grow dim so that he could not see, was lying down in his room; the lamp of God had not yet gone out, and Samuel was lying down in the temple of the LORD, where the ark of God was. Then the LORD called, 'Samuel! Samuel!' and he said, 'Here I am!' and ran to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call; lie down again.' So he went and lay down. The LORD called again, 'Samuel!' Samuel got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' But he said, 'I did not call, my son; lie down again.' Now Samuel did not yet know the LORD, and the word of the LORD had not yet

been revealed to him. The LORD called Samuel again, a third time. And he got up and went to Eli, and said, 'Here I am, for you called me.' Then Eli perceived that the LORD was calling the boy. Therefore, Eli said to Samuel, 'Go, lie down; and if he calls you, you shall say, "Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening."' So, Samuel went and lay down in his place.

Now the LORD came and stood there, calling as before, 'Samuel! Samuel!' And Samuel said, 'Speak, for your servant is listening.'

[Then the LORD said to Samuel, 'See, I am about to do something in Israel that will make both ears of anyone who hears of it tingle. On that day I will fulfil against Eli all that I have spoken concerning his house, from beginning to end. For I have told him that I am about to punish his house for ever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore, I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be expiated by sacrifice or offering for ever.'

Samuel lay there until morning; then he opened the doors of the house of the LORD. Samuel was afraid to tell the vision to Eli. But Eli called Samuel and said, 'Samuel, my son.' He said, 'Here I am.' Eli said, 'What was it that he told you? Do not hide it from me. May God do so to you and more also, if you hide anything from me of all that he told you.' So Samuel told him everything and hid nothing from him. Then he said, 'It is the LORD; let him do what seems good to him.'

As Samuel grew up, the LORD was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground. And all Israel from Dan to Beer-sheba knew that Samuel was a trustworthy prophet of the LORD. The LORD continued to appear at Shiloh, for the LORD revealed himself to Samuel at Shiloh by the word of the LORD.]

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm 139: 1 – 5, 12 - 18

¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
² You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
³ You search out my path and my lying down,
and are acquainted with all my ways.
⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
⁵ You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
¹² even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.
¹³ For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully
made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
¹⁵ My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
¹⁶ Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
¹⁷ How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
¹⁸ I try to count them—they are more than the
sand;
I come to the end - am still with you.

A New Testament reading - Sue

2 Corinthians 4: 5 - 12

For we do not proclaim ourselves; we
proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as
your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God
who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness', who
has shone in our hearts to give the light of the
knowledge of the glory of God in the face of
Jesus Christ.

But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it
may be made clear that this extraordinary
power belongs to God and does not come
from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not
crushed; perplexed, but not driven to
despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck
down, but not destroyed; always carrying in

the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of
Jesus may also be made visible in our
bodies. For while we live, we are always being
given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the
life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal
flesh. So, death is at work in us, but life in you.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

The Gospel reading – Chris

Mark 2: 23 – 3: 6

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Mark*

Glory to you, O Lord.

One sabbath he was going through the
cornfields; and as they made their way his
disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The
Pharisees said to him, 'Look, why are they doing
what is not lawful on the sabbath?' And he said
to them, 'Have you never read what David did
when he and his companions were hungry and
in need of food? He entered the house of God,
when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the
bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for
any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to
his companions.' Then he said to them, 'The
sabbath was made for humankind, and not
humankind for the sabbath; so, the Son of Man
is lord even of the sabbath.'

Again, he entered the synagogue, and a man
was there who had a withered hand. They
watched him to see whether he would cure him
on the sabbath, so that they might accuse
him. And he said to the man who had the
withered hand, 'Come forward.' Then he said to
them, 'Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on
the sabbath, to save life or to kill?' But they
were silent. He looked around at them with
anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart
and said to the man, 'Stretch out your hand.' He
stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The
Pharisees went out and immediately conspired
with the Herodians against him, how to destroy
him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.