

**Service of the Word**

**Hymns**

- 631 Tell out my soul  
964 Gloria  
185 For the fruits of His creation  
33 And did those feet in ancient time  
447 May the mind of Christ my saviour

**Collect**

God our saviour,  
look on this wounded world  
in pity and in power;  
hold us fast to your promises of peace  
won for us by your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**Amen**

*A New Testament reading – Christine*

**1 Samuel 15: 34 – 16: 13**

Then Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the LORD was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel.

The LORD said to Samuel, 'How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.' Samuel said, 'How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.' And the LORD said, 'Take a heifer with you, and say, "I have come to sacrifice to the LORD." Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.' Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, 'Do you come peaceably?' He said, 'Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and

come with me to the sacrifice.' And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is now before the LORD.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, 'Neither has the LORD chosen this one.' Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen any of these.' Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.' He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

**Psalm 20**

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD answer you in the day of trouble!  
The name of the God of Jacob protect you!  
<sup>2</sup> May he send you help from the sanctuary,  
and give you support from Zion.

<sup>3</sup> May he remember all your offerings,  
and regard with favour your burnt sacrifices.

<sup>4</sup> May he grant you your heart's desire,  
and fulfil all your plans.

<sup>5</sup> May we shout for joy over your victory,  
and in the name of our God set up our  
banners.

May the LORD fulfil all your petitions.

<sup>6</sup> Now I know that the LORD will help his  
anointed;  
he will answer him from his holy heaven  
with mighty victories by his right hand.

<sup>7</sup> Some take pride in chariots, and some in  
horses,  
but our pride is in the name of the LORD our  
God.

<sup>8</sup> They will collapse and fall,  
but we shall rise and stand upright.

<sup>9</sup> Give victory to the king, O LORD;  
answer us when we call.

*A New Testament reading – Julie R-J*

**2 Corinthians 5: 6 – 10, [11 – 13], 14 - 17**

So, we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord - for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So, whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

[Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore, all have

died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So, if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God**

*The Gospel reading – Chris*

**Mark 4: 26 - 34**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

He also said, 'The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.'

He also said, 'With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.'

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.*

**Praise to you, O Christ.**