

**Collect**

O God, you have assured the human family of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Deliver us from the death of sin and raise us to new life in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**FIRST READING 1 Samuel 8.4–11, 16–20**

A reading from the first book of Samuel.

4 All the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. 5 They 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.'

*For the word of the Lord. THANKS BE TO GOD*

**Responsorial Psalm Psalm 128**

**Response: When I called, O Lord, you answered me.**

1 I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I will sing your praise. 2 I will bow down towards your holy temple and praise your name, because of your love and faithfulness; 3 For you have glorified your name and your word above all things. **R**

4 When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me. 5 All the kings of the earth will praise you, O Lord, when they have heard the words of your mouth. **R**

6 They will sing of the ways of the Lord, that great is the glory of the Lord. 7 Though the Lord be high, he cares for the lowly; he perceives the haughty from afar. **R**

8 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right hand shall save me. 9 The Lord will make good his purpose for me; O Lord, your love endures for ever; do not abandon the works of your hands. **R**

**SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4.13 – 5.1**

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

13 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. 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. .

*For the word of the Lord THANKS BE TO GOD*

**Gospel Mark 3.20–35**

*Hear the gospel our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
Glory to Christ our Saviour*

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his companions 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.'

*Give thanks to the Lord for his glorious gospel*

*Praise to Christ our Lord*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O God, we have shared in the mysteries of the body and blood of Christ. Nourish us by this feast, that we may live the risen life and serve you faithfully in the world. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen**

**BLESSING**

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**



