



From Our Vicar

Rev. Wayne Walters

The Graciousness of the Lord our God

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27; 2 Corinthians 8:7-15; Mark 5:21-43

Our three Sunday readings present examples of the amazing graciousness of God reflected in the lives of those led by his Spirit.

2 Samuel 1 contains David's lament after the death of Saul and Saul's son Jonathan at the hand of the Philistines. Jonathan was like a blood brother to David. The two men had covenanted undying loyalty to one another in deep friendship. Saul on the other hand had pursued David relentlessly to put him to death – purely from jealousy. David in contrast had spared Saul's life on two occasions when his enemy had been within his grasp, refusing to do harm 'to the Lord's anointed'. Now with his enemy dead, David does not exult, but grieves and honours Saul along with Jonathan in this moving lament that has left us the legacy of the words – 'How the mighty have fallen'.

Our second reading relates to Paul's fundraising project among the Gentile converts to contribute to the believers in Jerusalem who were suffering amid a famine. Paul writes to prepare the Corinthians to be generous according to their ability, spurring them on by the example of the eagerness of the church in Macedonia. This gift to the Jerusalem church was of great importance to Paul. In it he sought to foster acceptance by Jews of Gentile believers, affirming their mutual love and bond as members together of the body of Christ. And it was also a lesson to the Gentiles of the responsibility of believers toward each other, and as an expression of gratitude for the gospel that had come to them from the Jews.

Our gospel includes the moving passage of Jesus pausing amid a crowd on his way to heal a child in urgent need. Jesus' care for the one—the woman with the socially isolating condition of the flow of blood, who had merely touched the hem of his garment—resounds as his care for every individual in need. God is never too busy for you. Others' needs may be pressing, but God sees you, God hears your silent cry. God is alert to your hesitant hand reaching out to him.

Such is the amazing grace, and graciousness of our God, toward you.

God bless you,
Wayne