*VERSION: 31 July 2017*

Sunday between 29 MAY and 4 June (if after Trinity)  
(Proper 4), year B

**Note**: For explanations and suggestions on the various resources provided, see the documents 'General notes and resources' and 'Time after Pentecost' in the 'General and seasonal' folder.

LITURGY

Sentence

See the document 'General notes and resources', under 'Sentence', in the 'General and seasonal' folder for suggestions on using a Sentence.

God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,”made his light shine in our hearts   
**to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.***(2 Corinthians 4:6 NIV)*

*OR*

We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus,   
**so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.**   
*(2 Corinthians 4:8-10 NIV)*

*OR,* use one of the general Sentences in the document 'General notes and resources', under 'Sentence', in the 'General and seasonal' folder.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (COLLECT)**

We thank you, eternal God, that your Son has provided a heavenly time and place of rest for us. Help us to keep each day holy by gladly hearing your word, so that we may find our rest in him, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

*OR*

We thank you, almighty and ever-living God, that your Son healed those who were disabled and unable to work with their hands. Look with compassion on us and all those who have been disabled by sin and make us whole by your healing word, so that we can serve you as your holy people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

**FIRST READING AND PSALM**

*Note: There are two sets of first readings (with accompanying Psalms) given for the Sundays after Pentecost: (a) a new semi-continuous set, and (b) a set related thematically to the gospels (as in the earlier form of the lectionary). It is intended that either one of these two sets be used throughout and that they not be mixed.*

*1a*

**1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)** The Lord reveals himself to Samuel

**Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

Antiphon:

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. *(Ps 139:23 NRSV)*

*OR, 1b*

**Deuteronomy 5:12-15** God’s provision of rest in the third commandment

**Psalm 81:1-10**

Antiphon:

God says, “I removed the burden from their shoulders; their hands were set free from the basket.” (Ps 81:6)

## SECOND READING

**2 Corinthians 4:5-12** Spiritual treasure hidden in ordinary clay jars

**ALLELUIA VERSE**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**The Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath. **Alleluia.**

## GOSPEL

**Mark 2:23 – 3:6** The purpose of the Sabbath as a time for healing by Jesus

Prayer after THE gospel

This is the gospel of the Lord.  
 Praise to you, O Christ

Lord Jesus heal our crippled souls and set our restless hearts at rest by speaking your words of comfort to us.   
Amen

offering prayer

We thank you, heavenly Father, that all good gifts come from you.  
Help us to be compassionate like Jesus and always ready to help others in need.   
Amen.

**Prayer of the Church**

*Call to prayer*

*Response*

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*Suggested intercessions*

* The disclosure of God’s gracious presence through the proclamation of Jesus in the church and this congregation
* The gift of the Holy Spirit to empower God’s people to endure trouble together with Jesus
* Help for troubled, perplexed and persecuted Christians
* Help for disabled people and the provision of care for them by agencies of the church and the state
* Rest for overworked and overburdened people
* Relief for tired mothers with young children and their demands
* Peace for our troubled world

*Concluding prayer*

Support us all the day long of this troubled life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**PREFACE**

It is indeed right and good,   
Lord God, holy Father,   
that we should at all times and in all places   
give thanks to you,   
through Jesus Christ our Lord.   
(On this day)\*   
he overcame death by his resurrection   
and opened up for us   
the way to eternal life with you.   
And so, with angels and archangels,   
and with all the company of heaven,   
we adore and praise your glorious name:

\* The words 'on this day' are used only on Sundays.

**COMMUNION INVITATION**

For a choice of communion invitations, see the document 'General notes and resources', under 'Communion invitation', in the 'General and seasonal' folder.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

See the service order for a standard post-communion prayer. Alternatively, use the third prayer of the day (as listed above) at this point. It may be modified as follows.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Let the life of Jesus be revealed in your bodies.

**Thanks be to God.** *OR* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**HYMNS AND SONGS**

**FOR THE READINGS**

Please note: \* = Modernised version available

G3, G4 . . . = Guitar chords available in the Music Package 3, 4 . . .

GS = Guitar chords in the *Supplement to LH*

**First reading (a): 1 Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)**

**LHS**

259 Speak, O Lord, Thy servant heareth\* G7

269 Speak forth Thy word, O Father\* G4

371 O Jesus, I have promised (esp v 3) G5

373 Lord, speak to me, that I may speak\* G5

500 Blessed Jesus, at Thy word\* G5

507 Open now thy gates of beauty\* Add verse 1 as attachment G3

**AT**

67 Let your word fill my days

223 When your Spirit moves

239 Breezes whisper without meaning

**TIS**

437 Blessed Jesus, at your word

595 O Jesus, I have promised (v 3)

597 Master, speak, Thy servant heareth

**First reading (b): Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

**LHS**

285 To Thy most holy supper,Lord \* G5

306 I heard the voice of Jesus say G7

*Hymns of praise, for example:*

440 Sing praise to God who reigns above G3

441 With joyful hearts your praises bring G3

469 Come ye people, rise and sing G4

502 This is the day the Lord hath made G6

505 Father, who the light this day G4

**AT**

137 I heard the voice of Jesus say

593 Come to me, all you who are weary

**TIS**

110 Sing praise to God who reigns above

368 This is the day the Lord has made

585 I heard the voice of Jesus say

**Second reading: 2 Corinthians 4:5-12**

**LHS**

124 O Holy Spirit, enter Thou\* G3

217 O Christ, our true and only light\* G5

228 Lord Jesus Christ, the cause is Thine\* G3

245 Lord of the church, we humbly pray\* G6

306 I heard the voice of Jesus say G7

358 Renew me, O eternal light G3

411 If God be my defender\* G3

500 Blessed Jesus, at Thy word \* (see guitar chord book)

**AT**

126 The light of Christ

137 I heard the voice of Jesus say

313 Christ, be our light (omit verse5)

428 Morning sunshine

**TIS**

400 O Holy Spirit, enter in

437 Blessed Jesus, at your word

548   Eternal light, shine in my heart   
585 I heard the voice of Jesus say

643 I want to walk as a child of the light

**Gospel: Mark 2:23 – 3:6**

**LHS**

161 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds G5

162 In Jesus I found peace and rest\* G3

780 We go to God when we are sorely placed

815 O Christ, the healer, we have come G6

835 Bread of heaven, on you we feed G5

844 Sent out by God's blessing G6

**AT**

174 Come let us eat

267 Bread of Heaven

473 Bread for the world

658 Jesus, you are the bread

**TIS**

223 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds

240 We go to God when we are sorely placed

513 Bread of heaven, on you we feed

529 By your priestly power, O risen Christ

531 Sent forth by your blessing

539 You satisfy the hungry heart

638 O Christ the healer, we have come

**Psalm 139:1-6,13-18**

For musical settings of Psalm 139:1-6,13-18, see Music Packages 4 and 9. See also TIS 88 O Lord, you have searched me out and known me.

The following metrical paraphrase of Psalm 139:1-6,13-18 by David Schütz could be sung to the tune 'Dir, dir, Jehovah' (LH218). If reproducing this version, please put 'Words (c) David Schütz' at the beginning or the end of the psalm.

O Lord, you've searched me and you know me,

you know when I sit down and when I rise.

From far away you know my thinking;

you watch me where I walk and where I lie.

You know my ways and all the things I do,

before I speak a word, it's known to you.

On every side, you're all around me;

your mighty hand is always over me.

So great your knowledge - far beyond me! -

its height and depth too great for me to see.

For it was you who made my inmost being

and knitted me together in the womb.

I praise you for my wondrous making -

I know that all your works are wonderful.

When I was hidden deep in darkness,

yet there you saw me and you made me whole.

And even then you numbered all my days -

my life unlived was written on your page.

Your thoughts, O God, are deep in mystery!

How vast they are is more than I can say.

Were I to count your thoughts, I'd stumble -

their number is far more than grains of sand!

If counting them, I were to fall asleep,

when I awoke you'd still be here with me.

Note that the songs AT 224 *Where could I run from you*, 394 *Search me, O God*, and 424 *O God, you search me* are song versions of Psalm 139.

**PSALM 81:1-10**

TIS 43 *Sing to the Lord a new song* is based on this Psalm.

Another metrical setting can be found here: <http://metricalpsalms.homestead.com/psalm81_1_10.html>

Other metrical settings can be found here: <http://www0.cpdl.org/wiki/index.php/Psalm_81>

NOTES ON THE READINGS

See the document 'General notes and resources', under 'Notes on the readings', in the 'General and seasonal' folder.

**1 SAMUEL 3:1-10:** The young boy Samuel, born in answer to prayer to aged Hannah and Elkanah, was given back to God by his mother to serve in the temple at Shiloh. Sleeping there one night, the little boy was called by God three times during the night. Thinking it was the priest Eli who called, Samuel wakened him on each occasion. Eli eventually instructed him to answer, 'Speak Lord, your servant hears'. Samuel obeyed, and God told him many things which would happen in Israel.

**DEUTERONOMY 5:12-15:** Here the Lord God provides a weekly, work-free holiday for his people. It was to be a holy day of rest for the whole household – parents and children, male and female servants, the beasts of burden and all foreign employees. The accent here is on the weekly commemoration of the liberation from slavery in Egypt by providing a time of rest and refreshment for their servants.

**2 CORINTHIANS 4:5-12:** St. Paul speaks explains how he and all Christ’s ministers display the light of Christ to their hearers. He uses three graphic pictures of himself and them as preachers: God’s creation of light out of darkness, treasure that has been hidden in a clay pot, and the clay lamps that provided light at night in the ancient world. Just as God spoke to create light our darkness, so he now speaks his word to shine the light of Christ in their hearts. Like humble clay lamps their mortal bodies contain the hidden treasure of Jesus and his all-surpassing power; like the oil in clay lamps which is expended to provide light, so the life-giving power of Jesus is displayed in their bodies as they share in Christ’s death and resurrection.

**MARK 2:23 – 3:6:** Both these stories have to do with the Sabbath. When the Pharisees criticize Jesus for allowing his disciples to pick some wheat to eat on the Sabbath, Jesus recalls the provision of the most holy show bread by the high priest for David and his companions as if they too were priests in 1 Sam 21:1-6. Since Jesus is the new high priest as the Son of Man, he provides holy food for his disciples to show that he is the Lord of the Sabbath who fulfils it by what he says and does. In the second story he as the Lord of the Sabbath heals a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath with his word, so that he could once again be fit to do his daily work.

**VISUAL**

**VISUALS FOR THE READINGS**

Pictures or visual symbols could be displayed on banners or the overhead screen during the readings.

**DRAMA**

dramatising the READINGS

The readings can be read by more than one person to make the dramatic meaning of the text clearer. For instance, the first reading (1a) from 1 Samuel could be read by four readers: narrator, the Lord, Samuel and Eli; and the gospel by three readers: narrator (the pastor), Pharisee, Jesus.

children

**'COME AND SEE JESUS'**

The *Come and See Jesus* curriculum published by Openbook Publishers has a wealth of material and ideas that may be adapted for use in worship. Please note that a new edition of this material is currently available for the Revised Common Lectionary.