

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD EPISCOPAL

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

June 28th, 2009

The first reading is from:

2 Samuel 1:1,7-27

After the death of Saul,
when David had returned from defeating the
Amalekites,
David remained two days in Ziklag.

When he looked behind him, he saw me,
and called to me.

I answered, "Here, sir."

And he said to me, "Who are you?"

I answered him, "I am an Amalekite."

He said to me,
"Come, stand over me and kill me;
for convulsions have seized me,
and yet my life still lingers."

So I stood over him,
and killed him,
for I knew that he could not live after he had
fallen.

I took the crown that was on his head
and the armlet that was on his arm,
and I have brought them here to my lord.'

Then David took hold of his clothes and tore
them;
and all the men who were with him did the
same.

They mourned and wept,
and fasted until evening for Saul
and for his son Jonathan,
and for the army of the Lord
and for the house of Israel,

because they had fallen by the sword.

David said to the young man who had
reported to him,
'Where do you come from?'

He answered,
'I am the son of a resident alien,
an Amalekite.'

David said to him,
'Were you not afraid to lift your hand
to destroy the Lord's anointed?'

Then David called one of the young men and
said,
'Come here and strike him down.'

So he struck him down and he died.

David said to him,
'Your blood be on your head;
for your own mouth has testified against you,
saying, "I have killed the Lord's anointed."

David intoned this lamentation over Saul
and his son Jonathan.
(He ordered that The Song of the Bow be
taught to the people of Judah;
it is written in the Book of Jashar.)

He said: Your glory, O Israel,
lies slain upon your high places!

How the mighty have fallen!

Tell it not in Gath,
proclaim it not in the streets of Ashkelon;
or the daughters of the Philistines will rejoice,
the daughters of the uncircumcised will exult.

You mountains of Gilboa,
let there be no dew or rain upon you,
nor bounteous fields!

For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,
the shield of Saul,
anointed with oil no more.

From the blood of the slain,
from the fat of the mighty,
the bow of Jonathan did not turn back,
nor the sword of Saul return empty.

Saul and Jonathan,
beloved and lovely!

In life and in death they were not divided;
they were swifter than eagles,
they were stronger than lions.

O daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,
who clothed you with crimson,
in luxury,
who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

How the mighty have fallen in the midst of the
battle!

Jonathan lies slain upon your high places.

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;
greatly beloved were you to me;
your love to me was wonderful,
passing the love of women.

How the mighty have fallen,
and the weapons of war perished!

This is the Word of the Lord -

Psalm 130

Out of the depths have I called
to You, O Lord; Lord, hear my voice;*

let Your ears consider well
the voice of my supplication.

**If You, Lord,
were to note what is done amiss,*
O Lord, who could stand?**

For there is forgiveness with You,*
therefore You shall be feared.

**I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for
Him;*
in His word is my hope.**

My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning,*
more than watchmen for the morning.

**O Israel, wait for the Lord,*
for with the Lord there is mercy;**

With Him there is plenteous redemption,*
and He shall redeem Israel
from all their sins.

*Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the
Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.*

The second reading is from:

2 Corinthians 8:7-15

Now as you excel in everything—
in faith,
in speech,
in knowledge,
in utmost eagerness,
and in our love for you—
so we want you to excel also
in this generous undertaking.

I do not say this as a command,
but I am testing the genuineness of your love
against the earnestness of others.

For you know the generous act of our Lord
Jesus Christ,
that though he was rich,
yet for your sakes he became poor,
so that by his poverty you might become rich.

And in this matter I am giving my advice:
it is appropriate for you who began last year
not only to do something
but even to desire to do something—
now finish doing it,
so that your eagerness may be matched
by completing it according to your means.

For if the eagerness is there,
the gift is acceptable
according to what one has—
not according to what one does not have.

I do not mean that there should be relief for
others and pressure on you,
but it is a question of a fair balance
between your present abundance
and their need,
so that their abundance may be for your need,
in order that there may be a fair balance.

As it is written,
'The one who had much
did not have too much,
and the one who had little
did not have too little.'

This is the Word of the Lord -