

THE GOSPEL Mark 4:35-41

³⁵Later that day, when evening came, Jesus said to them, "Let's cross over to the other side of the lake." ³⁶They left the crowd and took him in the boat just as he was. Other boats followed along.

³⁷Gale-force winds arose, and waves crashed against the boat so that the boat was swamped. ³⁸But Jesus was in the rear of the boat, sleeping on a pillow. They woke him

up and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're drowning?"

³⁹He got up and gave orders to the wind, and he said to the lake, "Silence! Be still!" The wind settled down and there was a great calm. ⁴⁰Jesus asked them, "Why are you frightened? Don't you have faith yet?"

⁴¹Overcome with awe, they said to each other, "Who then is this? Even the wind and the sea obey him!"

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 24, 2018



THE LESSON 1 Samuel 17:

(1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

The Philistines assembled their troops for war at Socoh of Judah.

⁴A champion named Goliath from Gath came out from the Philistine camp. He was more than nine feet tall. ⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head and wore bronze scale-armor weighing one hundred twenty-five pounds. ⁶He had bronze plates on his shins, and a bronze scimitar hung on his back. ⁷His spear shaft was as strong as the bar on a weaver's loom, and its iron head weighed fifteen pounds. His shield-bearer walked in front of him.

⁸He stopped and shouted to the Israelite troops, "Why have you come and taken up battle formations? I am the Philistine champion, and you are Saul's servants. Isn't that right? Select one of your men, and let him come down against me. ⁹If he is able to fight me and kill me, then we will become your slaves, but if I overcome him and kill him, then you will become our slaves and you will serve us. ¹⁰I insult Israel's troops today!" the Philistine continued, "Give me an opponent, and we'll fight!" ¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard what the Philistine said, they were distressed and terrified.

¹⁹They are with Saul and all the Israelite troops fighting the Philistines in the Elah Valley."

²⁰So David got up early in the

morning, left someone in charge of the flock, and loaded up and left, just as his father Jesse had instructed him. He reached the camp right when the army was taking up their battle formations and shouting the war cry. ²¹Israel and the Philistines took up their battle formations opposite each other. ²²David left his things with an attendant and ran to the front line. When he arrived, he asked how his brothers were doing. ²³Right when David was speaking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, came forward from the Philistine ranks and said the same things he had said before. David listened.

²⁶"Don't let anyone lose courage because of this Philistine!" David told Saul. "I, your servant, will go out and fight him!"

²⁷"You can't go out and fight this Philistine," Saul answered David. "You are still a boy. But he's been a warrior since he was a boy!"

²⁸"Your servant has kept his father's sheep," David replied to Saul, "and if ever a lion or a bear came and carried off one of the flock, ²⁹I would go after it, strike it, and rescue the animal from its mouth. If it turned on me, I would grab it at its jaw, strike it, and kill it. ³⁰Your servant has fought both lions and bears. This uncircumcised Philistine will be just like one of them because he has insulted the army of the living God.

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¹²"The LORD," David added, "who rescued me from the power of both lions and bears, will rescue me from the power of this Philistine."

"Go!" Saul replied to David. "And may the LORD be with you!"

¹³Then Saul dressed David in his own gear, putting a coat of armor on him and a bronze helmet on his head. ¹⁴David strapped his sword on over the armor, but he couldn't walk around well because he'd never tried it before. "I can't walk in this," David told Saul, "because I've never tried it before." So he took them off. ¹⁵He then grabbed his staff and chose five smooth stones from the streambed. He put them in the pocket of his shepherd's bag and with sling in hand went out to the Philistine.

¹⁶The Philistine got closer and closer to David, and his shield-bearer was in front of him. ¹⁷When the Philistine looked David over, he sneered at David because he was just a boy; reddish brown and good-looking.

¹⁸The Philistine asked David, "Am I some sort of dog that you come at me with sticks?" And he cursed David by his gods. ¹⁹"Come here,"

he said to David, "and I'll feed your flesh to the wild birds and the wild animals!"

²⁰But David told the Philistine, "You are coming against me with sword, spear, and scimitar, but I come against you in the name of the LORD of heavenly forces, the God of Israel's army, the one you've insulted. ²¹Today the LORD will hand you over to me. I will strike you down and cut off your head! Today I will feed your dead body and the dead bodies of the entire Philistine camp to the wild birds and the wild animals. Then the whole world will know that there is a God on Israel's side. ²²And all those gathered here will know that the LORD doesn't save by means of sword and spear. The LORD owns this war, and he will hand all of you over to us."

²³The Philistine got up and moved closer to attack David, and David ran quickly to the front line to face him. ²⁴David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone. He slung it, and it hit the Philistine on his forehead. The stone penetrated his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

THE RESPONSE Psalm 9:9-20

¹The LORD is a safe place for the oppressed—a safe place in difficult times.

²Those who know your name trust you because you have not abandoned any who seek you, LORD.

³Sing praises to the LORD, who lives in Zion! Proclaim his mighty acts among all people!

⁴Because the one who avenges bloodshed remembers those who suffer; the LORD hasn't forgotten their cries for help.

⁵Have mercy on me, LORD! Just look how I suffer because of those who hate me. But you are the one who brings me back from the very gates of death

⁶so I can declare all your praises, so I can rejoice in your salvation in the gates of Daughter Zion.

⁷The nations have fallen into the hole they themselves made! Their feet are caught in the very net they themselves hid!

⁸The LORD is famous for the justice he has done; it's his own doing that the wicked are trapped.

⁹Let the wicked go straight to the grave, the same for every nation that forgets God.

¹⁰Because the poor won't be forgotten forever, the hope of those who suffer won't be lost for all time.

¹¹Get up, LORD! Don't let people prevail! Let the nations be judged before you.

¹²Strike them with fear, LORD. Let the nations know they are only human.

THE EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 6:1-13

Since we work together with him, we are also begging you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ²He says, *I listened to you at the right time, and I helped you on the day of salvation.* Look, now is the right time! Look, now is the day of salvation!

³We don't give anyone any reason to be offended about anything so that our ministry won't be criticized. ⁴Instead, we commend ourselves as ministers of God in every way. We did this with our great endurance through problems, disasters, and stressful situations. ⁵We went through beatings, imprisonments, and riots. We experienced hard work, sleepless nights, and hunger. ⁶We displayed purity, knowledge, patience, and generosity. We served with the Holy Spirit, genuine love, ⁷telling the

truth, and God's power. We carried the weapons of righteousness in our right hand and our left hand. ⁸We were treated with honor and dishonor and with verbal abuse and good evaluation. We were seen as both fake and real, ⁹as unknown and well known, as dying—and look, we are alive! We were seen as punished but not killed, ¹⁰as going through pain but always happy, as poor but making many rich, and as having nothing but owning everything.

¹¹Corinthians, we have spoken openly to you, and our hearts are wide open. ¹²There are no limits to the affection that we feel for you. You are the ones who placed boundaries on your affection for us. ¹³But as a fair trade—I'm talking to you like you are children—open your hearts wide too.