

## 1 Samuel 8:4-11

from the Common English Bible

<sup>4</sup>So all the Israelite elders got together and went to Samuel at Ramah. <sup>5</sup>They said to him, “Listen. You are old now, and your sons don’t follow in your footsteps. So appoint us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.” <sup>6</sup>It seemed very bad to Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to judge us,” so he prayed to the Lord. <sup>7</sup>The Lord answered Samuel, “Comply with the people’s request - everything they ask of you - because they haven’t rejected you. No, they’ve rejected me as king over them. <sup>8</sup>They are doing to you only what they’ve been doing to me from the day I brought them out of Egypt to this very minute, abandoning me and worshipping other gods. <sup>9</sup>So comply with their request, but give them a clear warning, telling them how the king will rule over them.” <sup>10</sup>Then Samuel explained everything the Lord had said to the people who were asking for a king. <sup>11</sup>“This is how the king will rule over you.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

## 138

from the Common English Bible

<sup>1</sup>I give thanks to you with all my heart, Lord. I sing your praise before all other gods.

**<sup>2</sup>I bow toward your holy temple and thank your name for your loyal love and faithfulness...**

because you have made your name and word greater than everything else.

**<sup>3</sup>On the day I cried out, you answered me. You encouraged me with inner strength.**

<sup>4</sup>Let all the earth’s rulers give thanks to you, Lord...  
**when they hear what you say.**

<sup>5</sup>Let them sing about the Lord’s ways  
**because the Lord’s glory is so great!**

<sup>6</sup>Even though the Lord is high, he can still see the lowly...  
**but God keeps his distance from the arrogant.**

<sup>7</sup>Whenever I am in deep trouble, you make me live again...  
**you send your power against my enemies’ wrath;  
you save me with your strong hand.**

<sup>8</sup>The Lord will do all this for my sake.  
**Your faithful love lasts forever, Lord! Don’t let go  
of what your hands have made.**

Second Scripture Reading

**Mark 3:20-35**

from the Common English Bible

<sup>20</sup>Jesus entered a house. A crowd gathered again so that it was impossible for him and his followers even to eat. <sup>21</sup>When his family heard what was happening, they came to take control of him. They were saying, “He’s out of his mind!” <sup>22</sup>The legal experts came down from Jerusalem. Over and over they charged, “He’s possessed by Beelzebul. He throws out demons with the authority of the ruler of demons.” <sup>23</sup>When Jesus called them together he spoke to them in a parable: “How can Satan throw Satan out? <sup>24</sup>A kingdom involved in civil war will collapse. <sup>25</sup>And a house torn apart by divisions will collapse. <sup>26</sup>If Satan rebels against himself and is divided, then he can’t endure. He’s done for. <sup>27</sup>No one gets into the house of a strong person and steals anything without first tying up the strong person. Only then can the house be burglarized. <sup>28</sup>I assure you that human beings will be forgiven for everything, for all sins and insults of every kind. <sup>29</sup>But whoever insults the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. That person is guilty of a sin with consequences that last forever.” <sup>30</sup>He said this because the legal experts were saying, “He’s possessed by an evil spirit.” <sup>31</sup>His mother and brothers arrived. They stood outside and sent word to him, calling for him. <sup>32</sup>A crowd was seated around him, and those sent to him said, “Look, your mother, brothers, and sisters are outside looking for you.” <sup>33</sup>He replied, “Who is my mother? Who are my brothers?” <sup>34</sup>Looking around at those seated around him in a circle, he said, “Look, here are my mother and my brothers. <sup>35</sup>Whoever does God’s will is my brother, sister, and mother.”