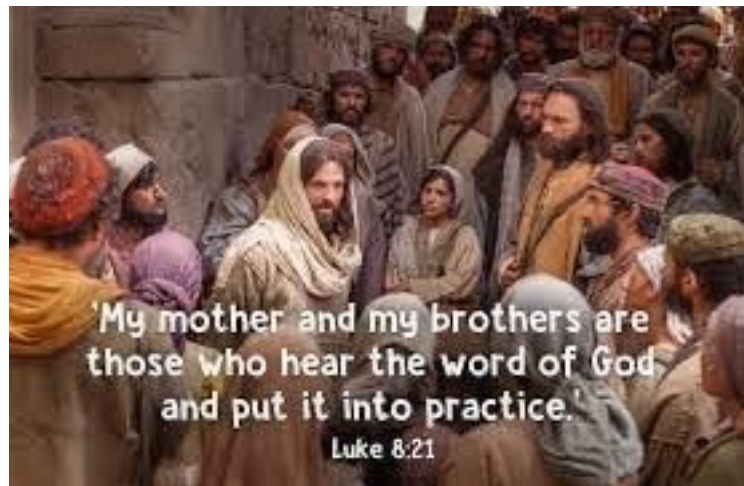


Sunday 9th June 2024

The Second Sunday after Trinity



Today's Gospel reading: Mark 3:20-35

Jesus has wowed the people of Galilee with his teaching and healing but not everyone is happy. It looks as if the provincial authorities have sent to Jerusalem for the “big guns” to come and inspect what Jesus is doing and saying, whilst others, out of concern for Jesus, have called for his family to come and sort him out! Our Gospel reading is about what happens when they all arrive in Galilee.

The crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, 'He has gone out of his mind.' And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, 'He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.' And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, 'How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

'Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin' — for they had said, 'He has an unclean spirit.'

Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, 'Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you.' And he replied, 'Who are my mother and my brothers?' And looking at those who sat around him, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.'

The scribes from Jerusalem didn't like their own authority being challenged. They could see that Jesus had awesome power, but where had it come from?

Unlike today, when we know more about how diseases are spread and are beginning to understand how various stresses cause mental illness, people used to think that diseases and mental illnesses were caused by demons – evil spirits that took over bodies and minds. So they thought that, when Jesus healed people, he was casting out these evil spirits. The scribes accused Jesus himself of being possessed by a demon – the only explanation they could come up with! Jesus very angry because of the hardness of heart of these people, who were saying that the heavenly gifts of the Spirit of God, given in healing, were acts of evil. He wanted people to hear his message about God's love and forgiveness and how we can all receive the divine gifts of God's Spirit.

When he was told that his family were asking for him, Jesus redefined family as those who do the will of God. He was not rejecting his own family members, but including all God's people in his family. When we follow Jesus's example, we are blessed to find ourselves in a large "family of faith"!



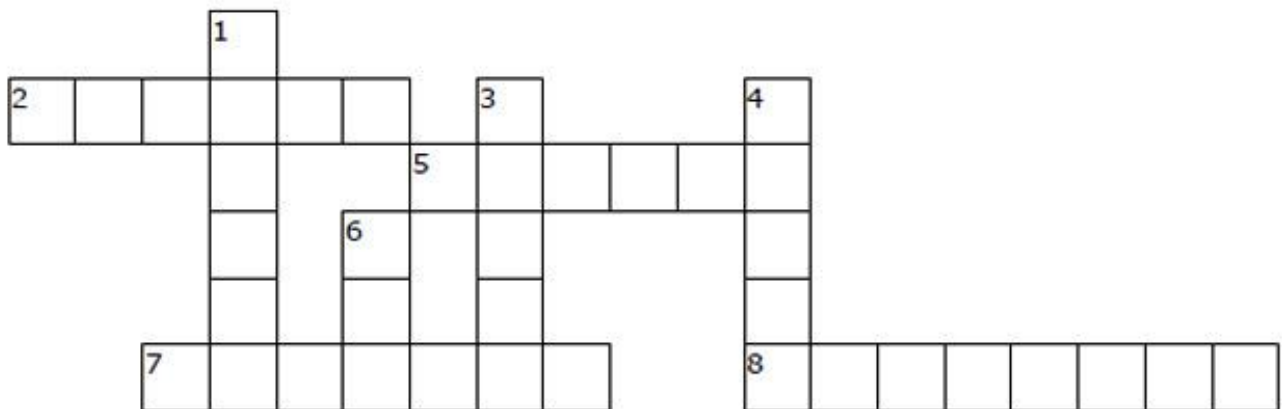
Prayer for this week:

**Dear God,
Thank you for letting us be part of your family.
Help us to do your will and to love one another as brothers and sisters.
In Jesus's name, Amen.**

Family Ties

"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."
 Mark 3:35 (NIV)

Puzzle is based on Mark 3:20-35



ACROSS

2. Parents and children; people descended from a common ancestor
5. A woman who has given birth to a child
7. A male with the same parents as someone else
8. A follower of Jesus

DOWN

1. A female with the same parents as someone else
3. A dwelling that serves as living quarters for one or more families
4. A large number people gathered together
6. To take in food

MOTHER	DISCIPLE	EAT	HOUSE
FAMILY	CROWD	BROTHER	SISTER

We Are Family

"Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother."
Mark 3:35 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Mark 3:20-35



N C M V F E D Y O Z R S L W W
W W H C L W M A R G Q E A D U
F A O C O O O E H X V A W I F
J V R R D U H H J K M T T S W
Q I C G U T B N Z A O E X C R
C U N E O Z Z N F P T D S I G
K I R R F D J L Y K H R M P N
K Q B R S A H O U S E X G L Q
V A Y S D E M G U H R V B E G
E Z F J H I K I C O I G B S I
J H B Z B X V A L Z F L U K W
W E G O D J E I L Y P M R I V
N Q S P Y T S M D V E G L Q T
Z M U U O Q N X R E A N W A D
R N C C S H N F W Z D P E J F

FAMILY	CROWD	CIRCLE	JESUS	DIVIDED
LAW	EAT	MOTHER	DISCIPLES	KINGDOM
HOUSE	BROTHER	SEATED	TEACHERS	GOD





God's church, our family, is made up of many different people!