

Former Prophet
1 Samuel 1:4-20

⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed,
he would give portions to his wife Peninnah
and to all her sons and daughters;

⁵but to Hannah he gave a double portion,
because he loved her,
though the LORD had closed her womb.

⁶Her rival used to provoke her severely,
to irritate her,
because the LORD had closed her womb.

⁷So it went on year after year;
as often as she went up to the house of the LORD,
she used to provoke her.

Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat.

⁸Her husband Elkanah said to her,
'Hannah, why do you weep?
Why do you not eat?
Why is your heart sad?
Am I not more to you than ten sons?'

⁹After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh,
Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD.

Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat
beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD.

¹⁰She was deeply distressed
and prayed to the LORD,
and wept bitterly.

¹¹She made this vow:
'O LORD of hosts,
if only you will look on
the misery of your servant,
and remember me,
and not forget your servant,

but will give to your servant a male child,
then I will set him before you as a nazirite
until the day of his death.

He shall drink
neither wine nor intoxicants,
and no razor
shall touch his head.'

¹²As she continued praying
before the LORD,
Eli observed her mouth.

¹³Hannah was praying silently;
only her lips moved,
but her voice was not heard;
therefore Eli thought she was drunk.

¹⁴So Eli said to her,
'How long
will you make a drunken spectacle
of yourself?
Put away your wine.'

¹⁵But Hannah answered,
'No, my lord,
I am a woman deeply troubled;
I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink,
but I have been pouring out my soul
before the LORD.

¹⁶Do not regard your servant
as a worthless woman,
for I have been speaking
out of my great anxiety and vexation
all this time.'

¹⁷Then Eli answered,
'Go in peace;
the God of Israel grant
the petition you have made to him.'

¹⁸And she said,
'Let your servant find favour in your sight.'

Then the woman went to her quarters,
ate and drank with her husband,
and her countenance was sad no longer

¹⁹ They rose early in the morning
and worshipped before the LORD;
then they went back
to their house at Ramah.

Elkanah knew his wife Hannah,
and the LORD remembered her.

²⁰In due time
Hannah conceived
and bore a son.

She named him Samuel,
for she said, '
I have asked him of the LORD.'

Epistle **Hebrews 10:11-14 15-18, 19-25**

¹¹ And every priest stands
day after day at his service,
offering again and again
the same sacrifices
that can never take away sins.

¹² But when Christ had offered
for all time
a single sacrifice for sins,
'he sat down at the right hand of God',

¹³ and since then
has been waiting
'until his enemies
would be made a footstool
for his feet.'

¹⁴ For by a single offering
he has perfected for all time
those who are sanctified.

¹⁵ *And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us,
for after saying,*

¹⁶ *'This is the covenant that I will make with them
after those days, says the Lord:
I will put my laws in their hearts,
and I will write them on their minds',*

¹⁷ *he also adds,
'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'*

¹⁸ *Where there is forgiveness of these,
there is no longer any offering for sin.*

¹⁹ Therefore, my friends,
since we have confidence
to enter the sanctuary
by the blood of Jesus,

²⁰ by the new and living way
that he opened for us
through the curtain
(that is, through his flesh),

²¹ and since we have a great priest
over the house of God,

²² let us approach with a true heart
in full assurance of faith,
with our hearts sprinkled clean
from an evil conscience
and our bodies washed
with pure water.

²³ Let us hold fast
to the confession of our hope
without wavering,
for he who has promised
is faithful.

²⁴ And let us consider
how to provoke one another
to love and good deeds,

²⁵ not neglecting to meet together,
as is the habit of some,
but encouraging one another,
and all the more
as you see the Day approaching.

Gospel
Mark 13:1-8

As he came out of the temple,
one of his disciples said to him,
‘Look, Teacher,
what large stones
and what large buildings!’

² Then Jesus asked him,
‘Do you see these great buildings?
Not one stone will be left here upon another;
all will be thrown down.’

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives
opposite the temple,
Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately,

⁴ ‘Tell us, when will this be,
and what will be the sign
that all these things are about to be accomplished?’

⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them,
‘Beware that no one leads you astray.

⁶ Many will come in my name
and say, “I am he!”
and they will lead many astray.

⁷ When you hear of wars and rumours of wars,
do not be alarmed;
this must take place,
but the end is still to come.

⁸ For nation will rise against nation,
and kingdom against kingdom;
there will be earthquakes in various places;
there will be famines.
This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Reading the Former Prophet this Week

Last before Reign of Christ, the RCL drops Wisdom,
And returns to its Year B focus on Former Prophets
Full circle to Hannah conceiving Samuel –
Anticipating Advent, maybe?

In the corrupted shrine at Shiloh,
Old Eli's sons are messing up – and so is he
Hannah, barren, praying, appears drunk to Eli
Bargaining to offer a child as a nazirite, to conceive

From May of this year, notes and audio on 1 Sam 1:
<http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2024/05/i-samuel-1.html>

Reading the Epistle this Week

One more time, the RCL gives us a chance
to preach Christ's priestly sacrifice
will we pass once more on the theme?

It was a crux of English Reformation:
Did the priest at mass re-enact the sacrifice each time,
Or was Christ's once-offered enough,
And the sacrament a remembrance?

It's a crux of current piety:
How does the atoning blood sacrifice of Jesus work,
And must we be washed in that blood,
And accept our debts paid, at his expense?

Reposting of 2018 reading of Hebrews:
<http://www.hereticslikeus.com/2024/10/reposting-reading-of-hebrews-7-13.html>

Reading the Gospel this Week

Mark 13 is the 'little apocalypse'
Matched in Matthew 24, and Luke 21
Avoided in polite liberal circles,
Distant from even our own premillennialist roots

I've long presented Mark as 'Worlds Collide'
As we end Year B, this text is a nod to that frame
The discontinuity between Caesar's reign and God's

Concretely, the claim is the Temple levelled –
Did Jesus predict, anticipate it specifically,
Or is the evangelist selecting the scene
Reframing disciples' perspectives?

2012 – Buy Nothing Sunday
<http://www.billbrucewords.com/2012/11/wrecking-or-rebuilding-normal.html>