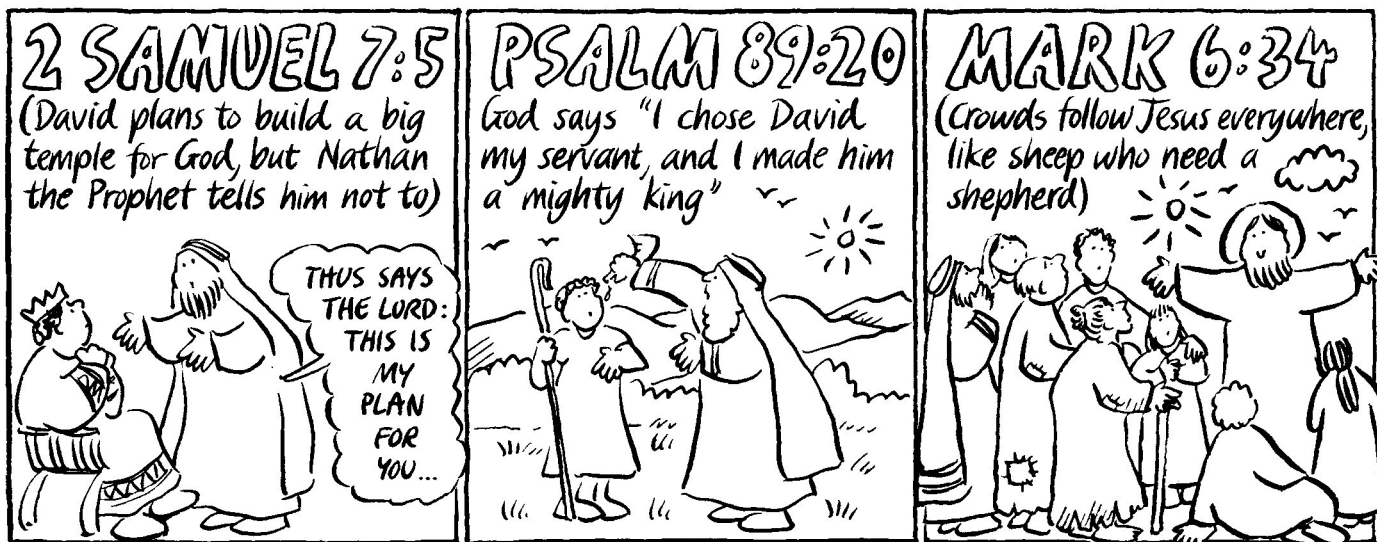


THE SUNDAY PAPER

Year B
PROPER
11



Long ago, the people of Israel knew that God had blessed them by giving them a law, a land, and a promise. They knew they were different from other nations who had not been chosen by God in the same way. They believed that God had chosen their king and would always be on their side. Sometimes this made them careless and over-confident. They forgot that God's blessing was a gift, not something they deserved or had earned.



2 SAMUEL 7:5
(David plans to build a big temple for God, but Nathan the Prophet tells him not to)

PSALM 89:20
God says "I chose David my servant, and I made him a mighty king"

MARK 6:34
(Crowds follow Jesus everywhere, like sheep who need a shepherd)

Jesus came to be king not only for his own people, Israel, but for the whole world. Even after Jesus rose from the dead, it took his friends a while to understand this. But when they did, they told this Good News to people everywhere!

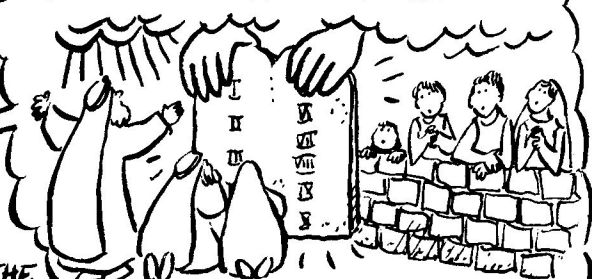
JESUS HAS MADE US ONE
Ephesians 2: 11-22

THE CHURCH SPREAD VERY FAST! LEADERS WHO STARTED NEW CHURCHES WOULD MOVE ON, AND KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE NEW CHURCHES BY WRITING LETTERS.



THIS LETTER WAS SENT TO THE CHURCH IN THE CITY OF EPHESUS!

REMEMBER HOW, ONCE, YOU DIDN'T SEEM TO BELONG TO GOD? GOD CHOSE ISRAEL TO LEARN HIS LAWS AND PROMISES...



... AND WHOEVER WAS NOT PART OF ISRAEL SEEMED TO BE LEFT OUT!

BUT WHEN JESUS CAME, HE SAID GOD'S PROMISES WERE FOR EVERYONE. HE DIED TO GIVE NEW LIFE TO EVERYONE!

HE IS OUR (EPHESIANS 2:14) - HE HAS BROKEN DOWN THE WALL THAT DIVIDED US...



... HE HAS MADE US ONE NEW PEOPLE, WITH GOD FOR OUR FATHER, AND GOD'S SPIRIT TO GIVE US LIFE!

HE HAS MADE US INTO A HOLY BUILDING, THE CHURCH, WITH HIMSELF AS ITS CORNERSTONE!

