

**2 Samuel 1:1. 17-27**

**Mark 5:21-43**

**Healing and cure**

**Introduction to the Readings:**

The lectionary shifts gear this morning and we begin exploring stories that bring Jesus ministry and hopes for human living into focus. Today we hear from the first gospel to be written, the Gospel of Mark. This Gospel was probably written about 40 years after Jesus death and gathers together stories that would have been circulating in oral form. It is fast and furious you might say as it does not have many of the additional bits that the early church added later. This 'Gospel' is the prototype of this literary form and later gospel were modelled on it using material from it as foundational. The main concern of this gospel is action: getting on with the business of living and growing community with an ethical core. So it addresses many issues that would have been unwelcome topics in this time and context. It emphasises Jesus actions to bring health to community: to make right what was going wrong and show an alternative way – the Jesus way or in later time 'the way of Christ. Mark does not term Jesus 'the Christ'.