

GOSPEL

Mk 7:31-37

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

R. Glory to you, O Lord.*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

Returning from the district of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, right through the Decapolis region. And they brought him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, put his fingers into the man's ears and touched his tongue with spittle. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And his ears were opened, and the ligament of his tongue was loosened and he spoke clearly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he insisted, the more widely they published it. Their admiration was unbounded. He has done all things well,' they said 'he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**HOMILY****PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES' CREED***Or the Nicene Creed may be said.*

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL**LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST***After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:***R. Blessed be God for ever.**

P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS**

P. O God, who give us the gift of true prayer and of peace, graciously grant that, through this offering, we may do fitting homage to your divine majesty and, by partaking of the

sacred mystery, we may be faithfully united in mind and heart. Through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.**THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Lift up your hearts.

R. We lift them up to the Lord.

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

R. It is right and just.**PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME***After the Preface, we sing or say:*

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The mystery of faith.

All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**COMMUNION RITE**

P. At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven . . .

P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray . . .

All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said . . .

R. Amen.

P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

R. And with your spirit.

P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

*All exchange a sign of peace.***LAMB OF GOD****All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.****Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.****INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** cf. Ps 41:2-3**Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.****PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P. Grant that your faithful, O Lord, whom you nourish and endow with life through the food of your Word and heavenly Sacrament, may so benefit from your beloved Son's great gifts that we may merit an eternal share in his

life. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

R. Amen.**THE CONCLUDING RITES**

P. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.**BREAKING OPEN THE WORD****GOD WILL COME AND SAVE YOU**

A myriad of images unfold God's restoration in Isaiah: God will come and save you. These images speak of restoration to wholeness both to people with impairments of sight, hearing or speech, and to a natural world ravaged by drought.

This sounds like the Good News of God's salvation in the Gospels. As we hear from Mark, Jesus returns to Galilee, healing a man described as deaf and with an impediment to his speech. It is 'they' who brought the man to Jesus, beseeching him to lay his hand on him. Previously we have seen Jesus reach out his hand to touch and heal a leper and to ask the man with the withered hand to stretch it out to be healed. In this instance, Jesus is reported to take the man aside in private, that is, 'away from the crowd'. We see Jesus touch him, putting his fingers in his ears and on his tongue as well as looking up to heaven in a gesture of prayer to God saying 'Ephphatha' – be opened.

The healing is instantaneous giving an impetus to the whole narrative, moving it forward towards the Passion. The people who witness this are filled with unbounded amazement. Even though urged not to tell anyone, they do so more and more. They acclaim Jesus in words akin to those we heard from Isaiah of the salvation of God. This public acclamation points to recognition of who Jesus is, a question Jesus will pose to the disciples.

DR ROSEMARY CANAVAN

A SERVICE OF THE SOCIETY OF ST PAUL

Unauthorised reproduction of this bulletin prohibited. Published with ecclesiastical approval by ST PAULS PUBLICATIONS, PO Box 906, Strathfield NSW 2135. Tel 02 9394 3400 Fax 02 9394 3444. Scripture readings from the Jerusalem Bible, published and © 1966, by Darton, Longman and Todd Ltd and Doubleday & Co. Inc. are used by permission of the publishers. Psalm text from The Psalms, A New Translation, © 1963, The Grail (England), HarperCollins. New translation of the Order of Mass from The Roman Missal © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Artwork by Sr Dorothy Woodward rsj. Layout, commentaries and illustrations © St Pauls Publications, 2024. No 678. Website: www.stpauls.com.au

OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / B

8 SEPTEMBER 2024

HE MAKES THE DEAF HEAR! Imagine the great joy of someone who has been cured of a hearing disability. What a thrill it must be to hear clearly, perhaps for the first time, the sounds of birds, of the ocean breaking, of music, of a friend's voice. Many of us enjoy good hearing but we can still turn a deaf ear to the cries of the poor, to the pleas of someone for forgiveness, even to the teachings of Jesus. What joy we too will know if we allow Jesus to touch us and heal our spiritual deafness.

INTRODUCTORY RITES**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON** Ps 118: 137, 124**You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.****GREETING**

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

R. And with your spirit.**PENITENTIAL ACT**

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries. P. You were sent to heal the contrite of heart: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. You came to call sinners: Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father to intercede for us: Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen.**GLORIA**

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.**LITURGY OF THE WORD****FIRST READING**

Isa 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet Isaiah. *Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.*

Say to all faint hearts, 'Courage! Do not be afraid. 'Look, your God is coming, vengeance is coming, the retribution of God; he is coming to save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, the ears of the deaf unsealed, then the lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy; for water gushes in the desert, streams in the wasteland, the scorched earth becomes a lake, the parched land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

R. Thanks be to God.**RESP PSALM**

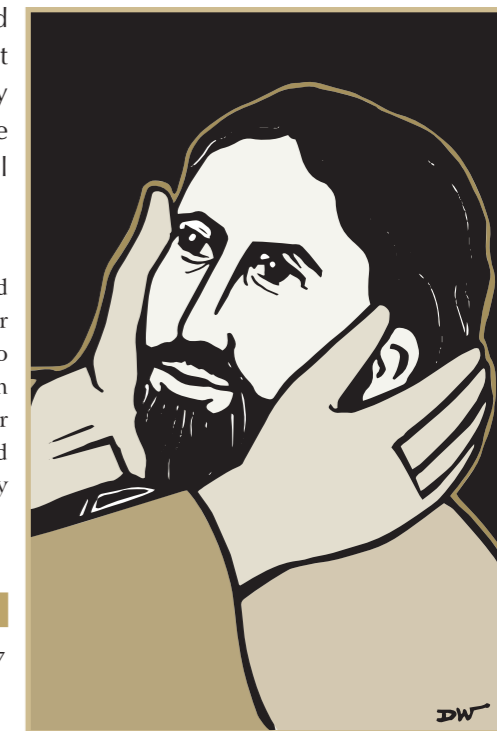
Ps 145:7-10. R. v. 1

R. Praise the Lord, my soul! (or Alleluia!)

1. It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever, / who is just to those who are oppressed. / It is he who gives bread to the hungry, / the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

2. It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind, / who raises up those who are bowed down, / the Lord who loves the just, / the Lord, who protects the stranger. **R.**

3. The Lord upholds the widow and orphan, / but thwarts the path of the wicked. / The Lord will reign for ever, / Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

**SECOND READING**

James 2:1-5

A reading from the letter of St James. *Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

My brothers, do not try to combine faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord, with the making of distinctions between classes of people. Now suppose a man comes into your synagogue, beautifully dressed and with a gold ring on, and at the same time a poor man comes in, in shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed man, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats;' then you tell the poor man, 'Stand over there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.' Can't you see that you have used two different standards in your mind, and turned yourselves into judges, and corrupt judges at that?

Listen, my dear brothers: it was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.

The word of the Lord. **R. Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Mt 4:23

Alleluia, alleluia! Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick. Alleluia!