

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Have mercy on us, O Lord.
For we have sinned against you.
 Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
And grant us your salvation.



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

THE 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 Lord,
 you alone are the Most High,
 Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
 in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

OPENING PRAYER

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.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isaiah 35:4-7

A reading from the prophet of Isaiah

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. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps. 145: 7 - 10

R. My soul, give praise to the Lord. 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

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. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Alleluia, alleluia!
 Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:
 you have the message of eternal life.
 Alleluia!**

GOSPEL Mark 7:31-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
 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.
 Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all things visible and invisible.
 I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the Only Begotten Son of God,**



focus on sunday

The signs that Jesus is present and that we are his true witnesses is that we attend to our sick, console those who are in despair, befriend the friendless; work for social justice, we must not be mute through fear or self - protection. We must do all things well.



**born of the Father before all ages.
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 consubstantial with the Father;
 through him all things were made.
 For us men and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven,**

**All bow for following three lines:
 and by the Holy Spirit
 was incarnate of the Virgin Mary,
 and became man.
 For our sake he was crucified under
 Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was
 buried, and rose again on the third day in
 accordance with the Scriptures.
 He ascended into heaven and is seated at
 the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead
 and his kingdom will have no end.
 I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
 the giver of life, who proceeds from the
 Father and the Son, who with the Father
 and the Son is adored and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 I believe in one, holy,
 catholic and apostolic Church.
 I confess one Baptism for the
 forgiveness of sins and I look forward to
 the resurrection of the dead and the life of
 the world to come. Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

**The mystery of faith.
 Save us, Saviour of the world, for
 by your Cross and Resurrection you
 have set us free.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.



Many of Jesus' miracles were for people who were deaf or with speech difficulties. We can imagine what it must be like to suffer like that, and the great relief on being healed. So important were these miracles that they were signs of the coming of the Messiah. The people knew the divine as present in these cures.

The meaning of the miracles is spiritual as well as physical. They were now able to hear and speak the word of God. Blocks to this seeing and hearing are healed by the presence and the word of Jesus. At baptism we pray that the child or adult may soon hear and speak the word of God as their ears and mouth are blessed.

Even without the physical healing the dumb man could speak the word of God. We share God's word in our words and in how we live. We often remember the moments of kindness or compassion as much as a person's words. By the way we live we are speakers of the word of God. As Jesus was made flesh, the word of God is audible in us, but must be in us before we can speak it.

We pray also today for all we know who may need healing in speech and hearing.

May I hear your word O Lord in my heart and speak it in my life.

Donal Neary SJ (editor Sacred Heart Messenger).