



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 4–10

TIME AFTER PENTECOST — LECTIONARY 23

Year B, Complementary Series

FIRST READING: Isaiah 35:4-7a

A reading from Isaiah.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,

“Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

Your God will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

God will come and save you.”

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,

and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,

and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness

and streams in the desert;

^{7a}the burning sand shall become a pool

and the thirsty ground springs of water.

Word of God, word of life.

or

The word of the Lord.

PSALMODY: Psalm 146

SECOND READING: James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17

A reading from James.

¹My dear family,

do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory
while showing partiality.

²For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly,
and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in,

³and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say,
“Have a seat here in a good place, please,”

while to the one who is poor you say,

“Stand there,” or, “Sit by my footstool,” ▶

⁴have you not made distinctions among yourselves
and become judges with evil thoughts?

⁵Listen, my beloved ones.

Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith
and to be heirs of the dominion promised to those who love God?

⁶But you have dishonored the poor person.

Is it not the rich who oppress you?

Is it not they who drag you into the courts?

⁷Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

⁸If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture,
“You shall love your neighbor as yourself,” you do well.

⁹But if you show partiality, you commit sin
and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

¹⁰For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point
has become accountable for all of it.

[¹¹For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,”
also said, “You shall not murder.”

Now if you do not commit adultery but you murder,
you have become a transgressor of the law.

¹²So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty.

¹³For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy;
mercy triumphs over judgment.]

¹⁴What good is it, my dear family,
if someone claims to have faith but does not have works?
Surely that faith cannot save, can it?

¹⁵If one of your siblings is naked and lacks daily food

¹⁶and one of you says to them,

“Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,”

and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

¹⁷So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Word of God, word of life. *or* The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark.

²⁴Jesus[†] set out and went away to the region of Tyre.

He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there.

Yet he could not escape notice,

²⁵but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

²⁶Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophenician origin.

She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

²⁷Jesus said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.”

²⁸But she answered him,

“Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.”

²⁹Then Jesus said to her, “For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.”

³⁰And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

³¹Then Jesus returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.

³²They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech, and they begged him to lay his hand on him.

³³Jesus took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.

³⁴Then looking up to heaven, Jesus sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.”

³⁵And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

³⁶Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one, but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.

³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

The gospel of the Lord.