

GOSPEL LESSON—Mark 7:24-37

Jesus was on a route circling through non-Jewish and mixed race peoples. Though His focus was first on the lost sheep of the house of Israel, word about Him and His ministry spread to others as He walked beyond the narrow confines of the Jewish lands. Sometimes Jesus prompted faith before a miracle, and sometimes the miracle came first. This is one of the healings where we can't tell when the faith came. We know our faith became real in the miracle of our Baptism, yet it came to us from the shed blood on the cross and was made to apply to our life at Christ's Resurrection. The exact moment when God opened our personal ears and our heart to faith is for only known by Him.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

© Eternal, Almighty God, heavenly Father, how good it is to sing Your praises. How delightful it is to assemble in Your house with our fellow redeemed. You revive our expectations in a world filled with the broken promises of man. Your Word is truth, and Your promises are always fulfilled. You alone have the might and power to accomplish those things which we are unable to do. Accept our praise and thanksgiving for graciously using Your power among us.

Forgive us, O Lord: for trusting too much in human resources for solutions to our problems, for being fearful when we know Your power is available for the asking, for being slow to hear, quick to speak and quick to be angry.

Open our eyes to Your goodness and to the needs of others. Unstop our ears that we may hear Your voice above the noise and confusion of our times. Unloose our tongues that we may speak of the wonders of Your mighty acts. Give us vision to see the world ripe for the harvest. May all ears be attentive to the message of Your heavenly Gospel. May all voices be tuned to sing Your praises.

Set Your healing power to work in the sick and all the afflicted. Hear their cry and remember them in Your tender mercy, uphold them by the comforting power of Your Spirit. Show Yourself as their ever present help. Increase their trust in You and their faith in Your Son, who has already worked in us the miracle of salvation.

Give insight, understanding, and vision to our nation's citizens and leaders. Grant the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit to all church members and church leaders. In our work places allow us to be an example of Christ. In our families help us listen to one another with patience.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. **(Time of silent prayer.)**
In the name of Him who restores sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, and speech to the mute, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

© Amen.

PROPER EIGHTEEN

Chant Tone



Introit

The Lord is the strength of His — people;*
He is the saving refuge of His
a — nointed.

To You, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not
| deaf to me,*
lest, if You be silent to me, I become
like those who go down | to the pit.
Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy,
when I cry to | You for help,*
when I lift up my hands toward
Your most holy sanctu — ary.

Blessèd | be the Lord!*
For He has heard the voice of my
pleas for — mercy.
The Lord is my strength and my
shield; in Him my heart trusts, and
| I am helped;*
my heart exults, and with my song I
give | thanks to Him.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

The Lord is the strength of His — people;*
He is the saving refuge of his
a — nointed.

*(Antiphon, Psalm 28:8;
Psalm 28:1-2, 6-7)*

Collect of the Day

O Lord, let Your merciful ears be open to the prayers of Your humble servants and grant that what they ask may be in accord with Your gracious will; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Fear the Lord, | you His saints,*
for those who fear Him lack — nothing!
Many are the afflictions of the — righteous,*
but the Lord delivers him out | of them all.

(Psalm 34:9, 19, alternative)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: Lord God, heavenly Father, we begin another day of our lives secure in Your protection. Accept our songs of praise. For Your laws which curb the violence of the wicked, we give You thanks. For the security of family and friends, whose love we can depend on because they love You, we sing Your praises. Direct, sanctify, and govern our lives with Your Holy Spirit so that we may live to Your honor and glory and for the benefit of others. In accord with Your promise, that You will answer when two of us agree about anything for which we ask, we ask that You would hear our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

HERB MILLER, WRITING FOR, THE PARISH PAPER, SAID THE FOLLOWING. People should find themselves growing spiritually when they are involved in: (1) Worship, (2) Prayer, (3) Bible Study, (4) fellowship with other Christians, and (5) caring service to others. Mr. Miller indicates that 95% of Christians identify 1, 4 and 5 as important but leave out 2 and 3. "Prayer and Bible Study", (beyond the worship time) "offer a spiritual reference point for people, one that modifies their lives in God's direction." Personal Bible Study and prayer time are significant and important parts of a day as we commune with God. Corporate Bible Study and worship allow for the asking of questions and interaction (fellowship) in the Word.

THEME OF THE DAY

The Deaf Hear

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 28:8;) Psalm 28:1-2, 6-7

This Psalm has the commentators pleasantly perplexed. David was obviously in great trouble, but at the same moment he gives praise to God for his deliverance. Others think that King David wrote after the deliverance while remembering the trouble. We have removed the middle of Psalm 28, and use it to complement our Gospel Lesson in which a woman in great trouble persisted in her prayer for deliverance. Even while suffering she was confident in Christ's ability to bring about the healing.

COLLECT

This is a historic prayer, but we moved it many weeks from its historic location. It is pretty simple, we ask that God would hear the prayers of His people and that what we ask is made to be what He is willing to give.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Isaiah 35:4-7a

The prophet Isaiah spoke of God coming for vengeance and judgment against those who oppose God and for the salvation of those who trust in God. When the eyes of the blind are opened, deaf ears unstopped, the lame leap and the mute tongue shouts for joy it is to be recognized that the Messiah has come to His people. Jesus appealed to this prophecy when He told John's disciples to report to him what they saw and heard. The completion of the healing will take place in the glorious Resurrection of believers. Jesus announced both that He had come and will yet come. Beyond the provision in healing for our flesh, in the wonder of Jesus we also received water in the desert and a bubble spring from the sand (God's Word coming into our dead flesh.)

GRADUAL—Psalm 34:9, 19 alternative

We continue with Psalm 34:9 and 19. The glory of God is evident in our discipleship. We are lost and alone without God. With Him we are given the honor of understanding His thoughts.

EPISTLE LESSON—James 2:1-10, 14-18

It is often taught that James and Paul said opposite things. The truth is that James and Paul said exactly the same thing from a different point of view. Faith without any action is only a word. The action, the works flow from faith. The important lesson James had for us, is that saving faith in Jesus Christ expresses itself. Faith expresses itself in loving actions. Especially when it comes to people, we cannot discriminate on the basis of social status in presenting the Gospel. The Word of God is not the possession of one tribe or race of people, it is for everyone everywhere. In that way we are heirs of the kingdom. This is the message of James and it is the message of Paul in his Epistles.