



9 September 2018

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year B

GRANDPARENTS' DAY

# Jesus, Healer of the Deaf and Mute

Being unable to hear and speak is a crippling handicap. But even worse than physical deafness and dumbness are the spiritual “handicaps” – the inability or the unwillingness to hear God’s Word and to respond to it, or the refusal to hear the pleas of our neighbor and respond to it with compassion and love.

Jesus was able to restore the gifts of hearing and speech to the deaf and mute man. He can also perform the even greater miracle of healing the spiritually deaf and mute among us. In this Eucharist, let us pray that we may approach Jesus with humility, faith, and the readiness to obey him, so that we will be able to hear God’s Word clearly in our hearts. This will move us to respond to the call of our neighbors with generous readiness and proclaim His glory by words and deeds.

Today, let us also pray for our grandparents as we celebrate “Grandparents’ Day.”



## INTRODUCTORY RITES



### Entrance Antiphon

*(To be recited only when no Entrance Hymn is sung.)*

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

### Greeting

*P* –Jesus, our Savior has done everything well. May his grace and peace be with you all!

*All* –**And with your spirit!**

### Penitential Act

*P* –As we prepare to celebrate the Sacred Mysteries, let us call to mind our sins and ask for the grace to worship the Lord with a purified heart. *(Pause)*

*P* –Lord, you open the eyes of the blind. Lord, have mercy!

*All* –**Lord, have mercy!**

*P* –Lord, you open the ears of the deaf. Christ, have mercy!

*All* –**Christ, have mercy!**

*P* –Lord, you are the source of our hope and salvation. Lord, have mercy!

*All* –**Lord, have mercy!**

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

*All* –**Amen!**

### Gloria

*All* – 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!

### Collect (Opening Prayer)

*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, one God, for ever and ever.

*All* –**Amen!**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD



### 1st Reading *Is 35:4-7*

Isaiah offers to the exiles in Babylon a symbolic description of the Lord's liberating intervention in behalf of His people. All the signs of suffering and oppression are removed, thanks to God's saving love.

**R** –A proclamation from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you.

Then will the eyes of the blind be opened, the ears of the deaf be cleared; then will the lame leap like a stag, then the tongue of the mute will sing.

Streams will burst forth in the desert, and rivers in the steppe. The burning sands will become pools, and the thirsty ground, springs of water.

The Word of the Lord!  
**All** – Thanks be to God!

### Responsorial Psalm *Ps 146*

**R** –Praise the Lord, my soul!

*R. M. Velez*



\* The God of Jacob keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry. The Lord sets captives free. **R.**

\* The Lord gives sight to the blind; the Lord raises up those who were bowed down. The Lord loves the just; the Lord protects strangers. **R.**

\* The fatherless and the widow the Lord sustains, but the way of the wicked he thwarts. The Lord shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations. Alleluia! **R.**

### 2nd Reading *Jas 2:1-5*

Any sort of discrimination against the poor is against Christian charity, for they, too, are children of God and members of the Body of Christ. We should follow the example of God who has a special attention and love for the poor.

**R** –A proclamation from the Letter of James

**My brothers and sisters: Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Sit here, please," while you say to the poor one, "Stand there," or "Sit at my feet," have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs?**

Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Did not God choose those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom that he promised to those who love him?

The Word of the Lord!  
**All** – Thanks be to God!

### Gospel Acclamation

**All** – Alleluia! Alleluia!

**Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### Gospel *Mk 7:31-37*

The prophet Isaiah had announced that wonderful miracles would characterize the coming of the Messiah. The one described in today's Gospel passage is a partial fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy.

**P** –The Lord be with you!

**All** – And with your spirit!

**P** – A proclamation from the holy Gospel according to Mark

**All** – Glory to you, O Lord!

**Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the**

district of the Decapolis.

**People brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. Jesus took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue. Then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" – that is, "Be opened!" – And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly.**

Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

The Gospel of the Lord!  
**All** – Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

## Homily

### Profession of Faith

*(Nicene-Constantinopolitan Creed)*

**All** – 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, 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, (*bow*)\* **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!

### Prayer of the Faithful

**P** –In spite of the resources of modern science and technology, we still experience many limitations in all aspects of our life. We still need to experience God’s saving intervention in our lives. And so we pray:

**All** –Our Lord and Savior, hear us!

**C** –For the Catholic Church: May she be successful in promoting lasting peace and sincere reconciliation among the nations. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For those who are discouraged and see themselves neglected by all: May they find in us a clear sign of God’s care for them. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For the physically handicapped: May they feel accepted and loved by their relatives and bear their cross with a spirit of faith. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For those who are spiritually and morally deaf: May God’s grace open their hearts to the Gospel message and respond with love to the pleas of their neighbor. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For those who are spiritually and morally mute: May they find in Jesus the courage to proclaim the truth, uphold what is right, and condemn what is wrong. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –For all grandparents: May they enjoy good health and experience the love and care of their children and grandchildren. Let us pray! **R.**

**C** –Let us pray in silence for our personal intentions. (*Pause*)  
Let us pray! **R.**

**P** –Lord God, without You we falter, with You we can accomplish wonders. Heal us today from all our fears, defects and impediments, that we may live in Your presence with a renewed heart. Through Christ our Lord.  
**All** –Amen!



### Preparation of the Gifts

**P** –Pray, brethren . . .

**All** –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.

**All** –Amen!

### Preface III

**P** –The Lord be with you!

**All** –And with your spirit!

**P** –Lift up your hearts!

**All** –We lift them up to the Lord!

**P** –Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**All** –It is right and just!

**P** –It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For we know it belongs to your boundless glory, that you came to the aid of mortal beings with your divinity and even fashioned for us a remedy out of mortality itself, that the cause of our downfall might become the means of our salvation, through Christ our Lord.

Through him the host of Angels adores your majesty and rejoices in your presence for ever. May our voices, we pray, join with theirs in one chorus of exultant praise, as we acclaim:

**All** –Holy, holy, holy . . .

### Memorial Acclamation

**P** –The mystery of faith!

**All** –We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again!



**All** –Our Father . . .

**P** –Deliver us, Lord . . .

**All** –For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever!

### Sign of Peace

### Breaking of the Bread

**All** –Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us. (2x)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

### Communion

**P** –This is the Lord Jesus who makes the deaf hear and the mute speak. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to his Supper.

**All** –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

(To be recited only when no Communion Hymn is sung.)

**“I am the light of the world,” says the Lord. “Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”**

### 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.

**All** –Amen!

## CONCLUDING RITES



*P* –The Lord be with you.  
*All* –**And with your spirit!**

*P* –Bow your heads and pray for God’s blessing. (*Pause*)  
May the God of all consolation bless you in every way

and grant you peace all the days of your life.

*All* –**Amen!**

*P* –May He free you from all anxiety and strengthen your hearts in His love.

*All* –**Amen!**

*P* –May He enrich you with His gifts of faith, hope, and love so that what you do in this

life will bring you everlasting happiness.

*All* –**Amen!**

*P* –May almighty God bless you: the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*All* –**Amen!**

*P* –Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life!

*All* –**Thanks be to God!**

## BUSTING THE MANY FORMS OF DUMBNESS AND DEAFNESS

Some friends or relatives must have made the deaf-mute man understand that a benevolent healer was coming that way – Jesus, the man who had been setting afire the hearts of all those around the Lake of Gennesareth. They brought the poor man to Jesus and pleaded for him, since he was unable to speak and hear.

As he was being led away from the crowd, the deaf-mute felt that his days of humiliating silence were about to be over. And so it was. At the touch of Jesus’ hands and at the sound of his powerful word, the ears of the deaf man were cleared and his tongue was loosed, as Isaiah the prophet had foretold. (*See Is 35:5.6 and Mk 7:35.*) **The saving power of God had reached out to the handicapped man, filling his life with sounds and words.**

There are forms of deafness and dumbness much more serious than the case mentioned in today’s Gospel. Sometimes we even have the impression that we live in a world of deaf-mutes. And perhaps, we, too, are suffering from this handicap, to some extent . . . . **There are many people who are deaf to the harmony of nature, to the groans of the suffering and the oppressed; deaf to the voice of God speaking through their conscience!** Not a few perpetuate and increase their deafness by burying themselves in the noisy dens of vice . . . .

**Many are spiritually mute.** A mysterious “moral virus” paralyzes their tongues. **They are unable to speak words of truth, justice, wisdom. They are incapable of uttering words of prayer to God . . . .** It is the sad plight of a humanity steeped in sin – the sin committed in Eden, the sins of all generations, the sins of our society, the personal sins of each one of us.

It is in order to heal all men from these forms of deafness and dumbness that the divine Healer became one of us. Every day he comes to touch us with his healing presence. He is ready to open our ears and loosen our tongues. **He addresses to us his Word of life. He would like our lips to echo his Word in faithfulness and sincerity.**

**But the result depends on our response.** If we, in our pride, close our hearts to God’s inspirations and calls,

then His healing power will pass us by, and we will remain locked up in the voiceless grave of a sinful life. But **if we, like young Samuel, say: “Speak O Lord, for your servant is listening!” (1 Sam 3:10), then miracles will happen.** Lots of them. Every day. The Word of the Lord will fill our heart with its wisdom and life-giving power. And that very Word that enriches our heart will open our lips in praise and thanksgiving to Him, in words of love, concern and solidarity for our neighbor.

All this and much more will the Lord Jesus achieve in us if we let him have his way. At our baptism, our ears and lips have been touched in blessing, and the word *Ephphatha* (be opened) has been pronounced. **It is for us to let the power of that word of Christ be constantly active in us that we may hear and proclaim his Word.**

Get big discounts  
on books, magazines,  
calendars, and other items

in the

*Word & Life Publications*

booth# 210

at The  
39<sup>th</sup>  
MANILA  
INTERNATIONAL  
BOOK FAIR

September 12-16, 2018 (10am-8pm)  
SMX Convention Center

SM Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City



WORD & LIFE  
PUBLICATIONS

Don Bosco Compound, A. Arnaiz Ave. cor. Chino Roces Ave., Makati, Metro Manila

Postal Address: P.O. Box 1820, MCPO, 1258 Makati, Metro Manila, Philippines

Tel. Nos. 894-5401; 894-5402; 892-2169 • Telefax: 894-5241 • Website: [www.wordandlife.org](http://www.wordandlife.org)

• E-mail: [marketing@wordandlife.org](mailto:marketing@wordandlife.org); [wordandlifepublications@gmail.com](mailto:wordandlifepublications@gmail.com) • FB: Word & Life Publications

• Editorial Team: Fr. S. Putzu, G. Ramos, J. Domingo, A. Adsuara, V. David, D. Daguio

• Illustrations: A. Sarmiento, B. Cleofe • Marketing: Fr. B. Nolasco and T. Mojica • Circulation: R. Saldua