

SEVENTH SUNDAY



A reading from the prophet Isaiah

On account of me your iniquities are blotted out.

Thus says the Lord:

No need to recall the past,
no need to think about what was done before.
See, I am doing a new deed,
even now it comes to light; can you not see it?
Yes, I am making a road in the wilderness,
paths in the wilds.

The people I have formed for myself
will sing my praises.
Jacob, you have not invoked me,
you have not troubled yourself, Israel, on my behalf.
Instead you have burdened me with your sins,
troubled me with your iniquities.
I it is, I it is, who must blot out everything
and not remember your sins.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial # Psalm 40:2-5.13-14

Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

Happy the man who considers the poor and the weak.
The Lord will save him in the day of evil,
will guard him, give him life, make him happy in the land
and will not give him up to the will of his foes.

Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

The Lord will help him on his bed of pain,
he will bring him back from sickness to health.
As for me, I said: 'Lord, have mercy on me,
heal my soul for I have sinned against you.'

Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

If you uphold me I shall be unharmed
and set in your presence for evermore.
Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel
from age to age. Amen. Amen.

Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

Second Reading # 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

A reading from the second letter of St Paul to the Corinthians

The son of God, Jesus Christ, was not yes and no; in him it is always yes.

I swear by God's truth, there is no Yes and No about what we say to you. The Son of God, the Christ Jesus that we proclaimed among you — I mean Silvanus and Timothy and I — was never Yes and No: with him it was always Yes, and however many the promises God made, the Yes to them all is in him.

That is why it is 'through him' that we answer Amen to the praise of God. Remember it is God himself who assures us all, and you, of our standing in Christ, and has anointed us, marking us with his seal and giving us the pledge, the Spirit, that we carry in our hearts.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation # cf Luke 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
The Lord sent me to bring Good News to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel # Mark 2:1-12

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, word went round that he was back; and so many people collected there that there was no room left, even in front of the door. He was preaching the word to them when some people came bringing him a paralytic carried by four men, but as the crowd made it impossible to get the man to him, they stripped the roof over the place where Jesus was; and when they had made an opening, they lowered the stretcher on which the paralytic lay. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic,

'My child, your sins are forgiven.'

Now some scribes were sitting there, and they thought to themselves,

'How can this man talk like that? He is blaspheming. Who can forgive sins but God?'

Jesus, inwardly aware that this was what they were thinking, said to them,

'Why do you have these thoughts in your hearts? Which of these is easier: to say to the paralytic, "Your sins are forgiven" or to say, "Get up, pick up your stretcher and walk"? But to prove to you that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,' — he said to the paralytic — 'I order you: get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home.'

And the man got up, picked up his stretcher at once and walked out in front of everyone, so that they were all astounded and praised God saying,

'We have never seen anything like this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.