

SEVENTH SUNDAY

Season of the Year B

First Reading † Isaiah 43:18-19.21-22.24-25

On account of me your iniquities are blotted out.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

No need to remember past events,
to harp on what was done before.
Look, I am about to do something new,
now it is springing up; can you not see it?
I am making a road in the desert and rivers in wastelands.

The people I have formed for myself will declare my praise.

'You have not invoked me, Jacob;
you have grown weary of me, Israel.

You have not used your money to buy sweet cane for me
or sated me with the fat of your sacrifices.

Instead you have burdened me by your sins,
you have wearied me with your crimes;

I, I it is who for my own sake blot out your acts of rebellion
and do not call your sins to mind.

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 40:2-5.13-14

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

Blessed are those who care for the poor.
In time of trouble, the Lord will rescue them.
The Lord will guard them, give them life,
and make them blessed in the land,
not give them up to the will of their foes.

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

The Lord will help them on their bed of pain;
you will bring them back from sickness to health.
As for me, I said, 'Lord, show me your favour;
heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.'

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

In my integrity you have upheld me,
and have set me in your presence for ever.
Blest 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

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

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

As God is trustworthy, my word to you is not 'Yes' and 'No'.
For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, proclaimed among you by us,
by me and Silvanus and Timothy, was not 'Yes' and 'No'; he is always 'Yes'.

As many as are God's promises, each in him is 'Yes';
therefore also through him is the 'Amen' to the glory of God through us.
It is God who strengthens us with you in Christ,
and anointed us by sealing us and giving us the pledge of the Spirit 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

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

When Jesus returned to Capernaum, after some days word went round that he was in the house; and so many people collected that there was no room left, even in front of the door. He was proclaiming the word to them when some people came bringing him a paralytic carried by four men, but as they could not get the man to him through the crowd, they stripped the roof at the place where Jesus was; and when they had made an opening, they lowered the mat on which the paralytic lay.

Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic,

'My child, your sins are forgiven.'

Now some of the scribes were sitting there, and they discussed in their hearts,

'How can this man talk like that? It is blasphemy!
Who can forgive sins but God alone?'

And at once, Jesus, aware in his spirit that they were discussing like this, said to them,

'Why do you discuss these things in your hearts?
Which is easier: to say to the paralytic,
"Your sins are forgiven" or to say, "Get up, pick up your mat and walk"?
But so that you may know that the Son of man has authority to forgive sins on earth,'

– he said to the paralytic –

'I say to you: get up, pick up your mat, and go off home.'

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

'We have never seen anything like this.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

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