

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY



*First Reading † Isaiah 35:4-7*

*Then the ears of the deaf shall be opened and the tongues of the dumb speak.*

### **A reading from the prophet Isaiah**

Say to the faint-hearted,

‘Be strong! Do not be afraid.  
Here is your God,  
vengeance is coming, divine retribution;  
he is coming to save you.’

Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,  
the ears of the deaf unsealed,  
then the lame will leap like a deer  
and the tongue of the dumb sing for joy;  
for water will burst forth in the desert  
and streams in arid lands,  
parched ground will become a marsh  
and thirsty land springs of water.

The word of the Lord.

*Responsorial † Psalm 145:7-10*

### ***Praise the Lord, my soul!***

It is the Lord who preserves fidelity for ever,  
who does justice to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry;  
the Lord who sets prisoners free.

### ***Praise the Lord, my soul!***

The Lord who opens the eyes of the blind,  
the Lord who raises up those who are bowed down.  
It is the Lord who loves the righteous,  
the Lord who protects the stranger.

### ***Praise the Lord, my soul!***

The Lord upholds the orphan and the widow,  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion’s God from age to age.

### ***Praise the Lord, my soul!***

**Second Reading † James 2:1-5**

*Has not God chosen the poor of the world to inherit the kingdom?*

**A reading from the letter of St James**

My brothers and sisters, do not let partiality enter into your faith in Jesus Christ, our glorified Lord.

For suppose someone comes into your synagogue, well-dressed and wearing gold rings, and at the same time someone poor, wearing shabby clothes, and you take notice of the well-dressed person, and say, 'Come this way to the best seats'; then you say to the poor person, 'You can stand there' or 'You can sit on the floor by my foot-rest.'

Are you not making distinctions among yourselves and judging on shameful grounds? Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: did not God choose the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him?

The word of the Lord.

**Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 4:23**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Jesus preached the Good News of the kingdom and healed all who were sick.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

**Gospel † Mark 7:31-37**

*He makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.*

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

Returning from the territory of Tyre, Jesus went by way of Sidon towards the Lake of Galilee, right through the Decapolis territory. And they brought him a deaf man who had difficulty speaking; and they asked him to lay his hand on him. He took him away from the crowd on his own, put his fingers into the man's ears and spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven he sighed; and he said to him,

*'Ephphatha,'* that is, 'Be opened.'

And his ears were opened, and at once the impediment of his tongue was loosened and he spoke correctly. And Jesus ordered them to tell no one about it, but the more he ordered them, the more widely they proclaimed it. Their admiration was unbounded, and they said,

*'Everything he does is good,  
he makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak.'*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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