

Sunday 5 September 2027

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

First Reading - *Isaiah 35.4-7*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Say to those who live in fear,

‘Be strong, and do not be afraid!

For God is surely coming,
with justice, to save you.’

On that day,

the blind will see, the deaf will hear,
the lame will run like the deer,
and the voiceless
will sing for joy!

Water will spring up

in the wilderness,
and rivers will flow in the desert.

The burning sand will become a pool,
and the thirsty ground an oasis.

And where

the desert wild-animals
once lay in wait,
reeds and rushes will grow.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *James 2.1-9, 14-17*

A reading from the letter of James.

My brothers and sisters,

acts of favouritism
have no place
amongst those who have faith
in our Lord Jesus Christ.

If a person in fine clothes
and expensive accessories
comes in,

and you say, ‘Have a seat up here’,

and another comes in, poor
and in dirty clothes,
and you say, ‘Stand there,’
or, ‘Sit on the floor,’

your judgement between them
is godless.

For God has chosen the poor in the world

to be rich in faith,

and has honoured them

with the inheritance of the kingdom
that is promised
to those who love God.

But in

your acts of favouritism,
you have dishonoured the poor.

Surely you can see

that it is the rich who oppress you,
and drag you into court,
and dishonour the name of God.

The law

above all other laws

in scripture

is this: ‘You shall love your neighbour
as yourself.’

Acts of favouritism

go against this law.

My brothers and sisters,

if you claim to have faith,
but do not act upon it,
it is no benefit to you;
a faith like that
cannot save you.

If someone is dressed in rags,
and has no food,
it does no good
to say, ‘keep warm, and eat well,’
unless you also
give them clothing, shelter and food.

Faith

that does not lead
to good works
is no faith at all.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Mark 7.31-37*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.

Jesus was in the region
to the east of Galilee.

They brought to him
a man with no hearing,
and with
an impediment
in his speech.

They begged Jesus
to lay his hand on him,
to heal him.

Jesus took the man aside,
in private, away from the crowd.

He touched the man’s ears,
and tongue,

and looked up to heaven,
and said aloud, ‘be open.’

Immediately,
the man’s ears were opened,
and he could hear;
and his tongue was freed,
and he began to speak clearly.

Jesus asked them

to tell no one;

but the more

he asked them,

the more they told

of all that Jesus did,

saying, ‘He even makes the deaf to hear,

and frees the tongue

of the voiceless

to speak.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.