



“God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy.”

-Pope Francis

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**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Times
 September 8, 2024**

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Turning the calendar page to September marks a new beginning in the lives of many who live by the academic year. Traditionally the start of the school year in the United States, this month can bring to mind the many calendars by which we live. There are fiscal years, academic years, television seasons, sports seasons—the list seems endless. Added to all of these is, of course, the liturgical year.

A Christian of the first century or so would have been hard-pressed to understand what we mean by a feast day or holy day. That person would have understood Sunday as the primary feast day, and Easter as the primary Sunday. It was only over time that the Church began to set aside particular days and seasons to commemorate certain events or highlight selected mysteries of the faith. What has evolved over the centuries is a “map” of our faith, written on the days and seasons of the year. Some have observed that one will absorb all the major teachings of the Church in the course of a single year of Sundays if one is attentive. What a wonderful way to get Christianity “into our bones!” And best of all, there are no grades!

FEAST OF FAITH

THE MESSIAH FORETOLD

Today’s story of the cure of a deaf man with a speech impediment is a good example of how much is contained in a simple miracle story. The Greek word *mogilalos* appears only here in all of the New Testament. It is a technical term referring to someone with a stammer. It is also used only once in the entire Jewish scriptures, in the passage that we read today as our first reading from Isaiah. Clearly, by his choice of this precise word Mark wants us to recognize that what Jesus is doing is the fulfillment of what Isaiah had predicted centuries earlier. In fact, Mark wants us to recognize that Jesus is the Messiah foretold by Isaiah and the other Jewish prophets of old.

The word *epiphatha*, “be opened,” used to describe the restoration of the man’s speech, is another example of a subtle allusion to an earlier prophecy. This time the prophecy in question is from Ezekiel, when he foretells that in the messianic age, “your mouth shall be opened to speak” (24:26). The sophistication of Mark’s narrative is further revealed when we realize that there are multiple levels within a single reference. Mark not only draws our attention back to Israel’s prophetic past, he also points to the initiatory practice of his contemporaries by his mention of such things as spittle, touching of ears, and the use of the word *epiphatha*, all of which were practices incorporated into the early Church’s baptismal ritual.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God (Isaiah 35:4-7a).

Psalm — Praise the Lord, my soul! (Psalm 146).

Second Reading — Show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ (James 2:1-5).

Gospel — Jesus makes the deaf hear and the mute speak (Mark 7:31-37).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Cor. 5:1-8; Ps 132:9; G. Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Cor. 6:1-11; Ps 119:137,124 G. Luke 6:12-19

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31; Ps 119, 124, 16-17; G. Luke 6:20-26

Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13; Ps 119:137,124; G. Luke 6:27-38

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6, 12; G. Luke 6:39-42

Saturday: Numbers 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-37, 38 ; G. John 3:13-17

Sunday: Isiah 50:4c-9a; Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9; G Mark 8:27-35

JUDGMENT

To pass judgment on another is to usurp shamelessly a prerogative of God.

YOU CAN SAVE A LIFE! Don’t forget to sign up for **CPR classes** on September 14th and 28th. Sign up sheet on table in the Narthex. The class is at St. Andrew

Spaghetti date, Sept 20th . Volunteers will be needed to prepare the meal and bake cakes . Sept 18th and 19th as well as on Friday Sept 20th The sign –up sheet is in the front Please bring boxes for the take out plates

Sept 1st	
LECTOR	Janet & Marina
SERVERS	Jesus
Eucharistic Minister	Ann C, Anita, Jim M
COUNTER	Tom & Beverly

Sept 8 th	
LECTOR	Mary
SERVER	Carlos & Max
Eucharistic Minister	Peggy, Tom, Beverly
COUNTER	Mary & Ann F

Sept 15 th	
LECTOR	P eggy
SERVERS	Jesus
Eucharistic Minister	Janet, Florencia, Ann F.
COUNTER	Tom & Beverly
Sept 22 nd	
LECTOR	Beverly
SERVER	Carlos & Max
Eucharistic Minister	Jim, Florencia, Ann F
COUNTER	Mary & Ann

Sept 29 th	
Lector	Mark
Server	Jesus
Eucharistic Minsters	Ann C. Anita, Jim
COUNTER	Tom & Beverly

SUNDAY COLLECTION	
	9-1-2024
	\$1087.00
	B&M
	\$221.00
	Yard sale
	\$1596.25