



Liturgy Cycle B

Twenty Third Sunday Of The Year

The Deaf Hear And The Dumb Speak

Introduction

In today's Gospel we hear the story of how Jesus cured a man who was deaf and who had an impediment in his speech. You might say this is no relevance for us, but it has. There are so many important things we are not able to hear, so many important things we are not able to say. This is what sin does.

First Reading (Isaiah 35: 4-7)

The prophet urges those who are losing heart to take courage, for God is coming to vindicate and save his people.

Second Reading (James 2: 1-5)

Class distinction should have no place among Christians.

Gospel (Mark 7: 31-37)

This tells how Jesus cured a gentile man who was deaf and who also had an impediment in his speech.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Christ made the deaf hear, and the dumb speak. May he touch our ears to receive his word, and touch our mouths to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father. Let us pray.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who call themselves Christians: that they may hear the words of Christ, and speak them with courage and confidence. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



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For the world: that all peoples may listen with good will to the message of the Gospel, and that they may speak words of peace and friendship to one another. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who are physically deaf, that they may meet with understanding; for those who are spiritually deaf, that they may wake up to what they are missing and seek to remedy it. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may be patient listeners, and kind speakers, so that we may become instruments of the compassion of Christ. We pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

Communion Reflection

Entry from a college student's journal:

"If I had only a short time to live,
I would immediately contact all the people
I had never really loved.
I'd make sure that they knew
I really loved them.

Then I would play all the records that meant most to me,
and I would sing all my favourite songs.
And oh, I would dance.
I would dance all night.

I would look at the blue skies
and feel the warm sunshine.
I would tell the moon and the stars
how lovely and beautiful they are.

I would say goodbye
to all the little things I own:
my clothes, my books, my "stuff".

Then I would thank God
for the great gift of life,
and die in his arms."