

Gospel 5th September 2021. Cycle B
Sunday 23rd Week Ordinary Time

WITH ONE HEART AND ONE VOICE



GIVE US THE GRACE TO BE SENSITIVE TO YOUR LOVE

AMBIENCE

In your hands Lord, I bless you, I praise you, I offer you everything I am.

To praise you is to give you thanks for the gift of life, pro the people around me, for what I am and I want to be..., and it is to place myself in your hand and let you fashion me and be accompanied by you.

I want to express these feelings and this experience of life, with those who, like me, know you or long for you, giving meaning to their lives. May my life become a word and gesture, with what you have gifted me. I want to keep on walking with you and with the others, giving joy and fostering life.

SONG. Lord I give you my heart - Hillsong

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FHMjhz8aHTw>

GOSPEL - Mark 7, 31-37

" Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, "He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak."

Deepening the text

After having had a discussion with the Jews about the rules of purity, Jesus went to pagan territory. There he cured the daughter of the Syrian-Phoenician who had shown a faith that Jesus would have liked to find in his own countrymen. The following episodes also take place in pagan territory, in the Decapolis precisely: that is, the confederation of ten Greek cities, located almost all of them at the east side of Jordan River, and which, having been subtracted from Herod's administration, were added by Pompey to the Roman province of Syria.

Passing through Zion, Jesus went in direction to the Lake of Galilee and to the territory of the Decapolis. They brought him a deaf-mute person, and begged Him to "lay his hand on him.". Then, Jesus did something that he had never done before: He takes the deaf-mute aside in private, away from the crowd, and performs on him a gesture proper of healers: «Jesus put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. » Jesus does not change the gestures of that time, but he is going to give them a new meaning because, from then on, Jesus is different from the others: « the eyes looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to the deaf-mute, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened! » **The gesture of raising his eyes to heaven is not ambiguous: Jesus only heals thanks to the power that the Father has bestowed on him.** As for the sigh, we can see that Jesus laments: Is it about humanity that awaits his liberation? Is it the Spirit who intercedes for us? **Our suffering cannot leave God indifferent.**

« Then Jesus advised not to say anything to anyone; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. Strongly impressed they

proclaimed: "Everything He has done is admirable; He makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." Without knowing it, since they are pagans, they quote Scriptures: "All that He does is admirable" inspired in the Book of Genesis; turning to the work He had done in seven days «God saw everything He had made. and indeed, it was very good. » (Gn. 1, 31); « He makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak." It is to remember the promises of Isaiah for the time of joy that will open at the moment of the coming of the Messiah: «Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.» (Is 35, 5-6; text of the First Reading of this Sunday) Therefore, the messianic promises are for everyone, Jews and pagans. And, curiously, the pagans are who, apparently, better decipher the signs through what happens. Mark says: «They proclaim». Meanwhile, the apostles have a long way to go. But whatever it may be, despite our slowness to believe, the messianic time, whether we like it or not, has arrived **for all men and women.**

Keys for prayer

1. We contemplate the gestures of Jesus and the person presented to Him. What do we discover in them? What can be a light for our life?
2. I discover how my actions are when I approach to a person in need, which are my motivations? How do I act?
3. Who are those persons who need to be liberated today from their deafness? How can I be a channel of the Kingdom here and now?

OPEN YOURSELF, HE IS WITH YOU ALWAYS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC. HAUSER - Gabriel's Oboe

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RnMHrVN99b4&list=OLAK5uy_la5eZO3UcCdpAlCfipuOgyJ-tFYRWvpNk

OPEN US TO YOUR LOVE / YOU DO EVERYTHING WELL. I WANT TO PRAISE YOU

Bless the life, in each minute,
In each experience.
To offer You the time, the years,
The life, and to walk with You
Along the path of life,

The life I would like, the life that is indeed,
As it is, although at times it pains.
To bless with those who bless you
And to encourage those who don't do.
Because they do not know how to do it.
With those who laugh, to laugh.
With those who cry, to console.
With those who acclaim, to say a word.
With those who complain, to listen.
With those who run, to pacify.
With those who seek, to join strength.
With those who search, to explore.
With those who watch, strengthen.
With those who welcome, to join them.
With those who reflect, to remember.
With those who build, to raise.
With those who share, to give.
With those who say deep words, to admire.
With those who listen, to speak.
With those who work for peace we are one.
There is nothing better than to praise
And to bless the life!
In all their manifestations,
To provide, generate, enhance,
relax, relativize, smile, speak
and welcome everyone ... To live, to love.
I feel praised and blessed
To praise and bless
The life, the dream, the people.
Thank you, dear Lord,
For giving me life.

SONG. God of all my days-Casting Crowns

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZYkZE8AogDE>



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