



## THE FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY 9<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

### **The Collect**

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **The First Reading**

**Isaiah 35:4–7a (NJB)**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Say to the fainthearted, "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 gush in the desert, and streams in the wastelands, the parched ground will become a marsh, and the thirsty land springs of water.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Psalm**

**146:4-10**

**Blessèd is the one who truly  
looks for help to Jacob's God;  
blessèd is the one who places  
all his hope upon the Lord.**

**He delivers from oppression  
and relieves the hungry's plight.  
he releases those in prison;  
to the blind the Lord gives sight.**

**He who made the earth and  
heaven  
and the seas, with all their store;  
he who keeps his every promise,  
who is faithful evermore.**

**Those who are bowed down he  
raises.  
God delights in righteousness.  
He protects and cares for strangers,  
widows and the fatherless.**

**He frustrates the wicked's purpose.  
So the Lord through endless days  
reigns to every generation.  
Praise your God, O Zion, praise!**

### **The Second Reading**

**James 2:1–10, 14–17 (CEV)**

A reading from the letter of James.

My friends, if you have faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ, you won't treat some people better than others. Suppose a rich person wearing good clothes and a gold ring comes to one of your meetings. And suppose a poor person dressed in worn-out clothes also comes. You must not give the best seat to the one in fancy clothes and tell the one who is poor to stand at the side or sit on the floor. That is the same as saying that some people are better than others, and you would be acting like a corrupt judge. My dear friends, pay attention: God has given to the poor people in this world the

riches of faith; he has also promised them a share in his kingdom that he will give to everyone who loves him. You mistreat the poor; but isn't it the rich who order you around and drag you off to court? Aren't they the ones who laugh at your Lord? You will do right, if you obey the most important law in the Scriptures, the law that commands us to love others as much as we love ourselves. But if you treat some people better than others, you have done wrong, and the Scriptures teach that you have sinned. If you obey every law except one, you are still guilty of breaking them all. My friends, what good is it to say that you have faith, when you don't do anything to show that you really do have faith? Can that kind of faith save you? If you know someone who doesn't have any clothes or food, you shouldn't just say, "I hope all goes well for you. I hope you will be warm and have plenty to eat." What good is it to say this, unless you do something to help? Faith that doesn't lead us to do good deeds is just dead!

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

### **The Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia! **Alleluia!**

We do not live by / bread a/lone,

but by every word that comes from the / mouth of / God. **Alleluia!**

### **The Gospel Reading**

**Mark 7:24–37 (TNIV)**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spat and touched the man's tongue. He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "*Ephphatha!*" (which means, "Be opened!"). At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosed and he began to speak plainly. Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**