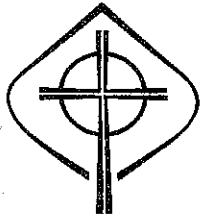


SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



"Ephphatha!" ("Be opened!") This command from Jesus in today's Gospel not only fulfills prophecy, but it also provides help. Not only that, it opens our lives! Be opened, Christian!

Introit



It is good to praise the Lord*
and make music to your name,
O Most High.

Trust in the Lord and do good;*
dwell in the land and enjoy safe
pasture.

Delight yourself in the Lord*
and he will give you the desires of
your heart.

Commit your way to the Lord;*
trust in him and he will do this.

The salvation of the righteous comes
from the Lord;*
he is their stronghold in time of
trouble.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen

It is good to praise the Lord*
and make music to your name,
O Most High.

(Antiphon, Ps. 92:1;
Ps. 37:3-5, 39)

Collect of the Day

Grant, merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Gradual

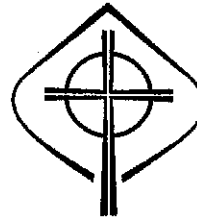
Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God!*
How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out!
For from him and through him and to him are all things.*
To him be the glory forever! Amen (Rom. 11:33, 36)

For Daily Devotions

September 16: Ps. 100; Eccl. 4-6; 17: Ps. 101; Eccl. 7-9; 18: Ps. 102; Eccl. 10-12; 19: Ps. 103; Song of So. 1-4; 20: Ps. 104; Song of So. 5-8; 21: Ps. 105; Jer. 1-3; 22: Ps. 106; Jer. 4-6.

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Isaiah 35:4-7a

Say to those with fearful hearts,
“Be strong, do not fear;
your God will come,
he will come with vengeance;
with divine retribution
he will come to save you.”

Then will the eyes of the blind be
opened
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
Then will the lame leap like a deer,
and the mute tongue shout for joy.
Water will gush forth in the wilder-
ness
and streams in the desert.
The burning sand will become a
pool,
the thirsty ground bubbling
springs.

James 1:17-22 [23-25] 26-27

Every good and perfect gift is from
above, coming down from the Father
of the heavenly lights, who does not
change like shifting shadows. He
chose to give us birth through the
word of truth, that we might be a
kind of firstfruits of all he created.

My dear brothers, take note of this:
Everyone should be quick to listen,
slow to speak and slow to become
angry, for man’s anger does not bring
about the righteous life that God
desires. Therefore, get rid of all moral
filth and the evil that is so prevalent
and humbly accept the word planted
in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word,
and so deceive yourselves. Do what
it says. [Anyone who listens to the
word but does not do what it says is
like a man who looks at his face in a
mirror and, after looking at himself,

goes away and immediately forgets
what he looks like. But the man who
looks intently into the perfect law
that gives freedom, and continues
to do this, not forgetting what he
has heard, but doing it—he will be
blessed in what he does.]

If anyone considers himself reli-
gious and yet does not keep a tight
rein on his tongue, he deceives him-
self and his religion is worthless.
Religion that God our Father accepts
as pure and faultless is this: to look
after orphans and widows in their
distress and to keep oneself from
being polluted by the world.

Mark 7:31-37

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 him to place his hand on the
man.

After he took him aside, away
from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers
into the man’s ears. Then he spit 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 loosened
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.”

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