

20-5-2021

## 23rd Ordinary Sunday - 5 September 2021

Anthony Doran

Follow this and additional works at: <https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/pastoral-liturgy>



Part of the [Catholic Studies Commons](#), and the [Liturgy and Worship Commons](#)

### Recommended Citation

Doran, Anthony. "23rd Ordinary Sunday - 5 September 2021." *Pastoral Liturgy* 51, no. 3 (2021): 1-6. <https://researchonline.nd.edu.au/pastoral-liturgy/vol51/iss3/22>

This Liturgical Resource is brought to you by ResearchOnline@ND. It has been accepted for inclusion in Pastoral Liturgy by an authorized administrator of ResearchOnline@ND. For more information, please contact [researchonline@nd.edu.au](mailto:researchonline@nd.edu.au).





# 5 September 2021

## Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reflection by Anthony Doran

### Introduction

What will it be like when God comes to save us? Our readings this Sunday give us some idea. Creation will sing for joy as springs of water flow in parched land. Liberation from physical bondage is also one of the signs: the lame leap like deer and the ears of the deaf are opened to hear such good news proclaimed to them.

### Penitential Act

Use one of the *Roman Missal* texts or this optional litany form:

Lord Jesus, you are the life-giving presence of God. Lord, have mercy.  
You make the deaf hear and the dumb speak. Christ, have mercy.  
You call us to hear your Word. Lord, have mercy.

### First Reading

#### Isaiah 35:4-7

Today's reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah talks of the time when the Messiah will come: water gushes in the desert and streams flow in the wasteland. When God saves us, even creation will break into a song of praise.

### Second Reading

#### James 2:1-5

In today's reading, James outlines the radical equality which characterises the disciples of Christ – and the challenge for us to treat all without distinction. In this, he reminds us that God's choice is for those who are poor according to the world.

### Gospel Reading

#### Mark 7:31-37

Physical healing is always presented as one of the signs of the kingdom breaking in upon our world. This is the case in this Sunday's Gospel of the healing of the man who is deaf and mute. But the end of today's reading also points to the kingdom breaking in upon those who saw this miracle: 'he has done all things well'. The people, too, are being cured of their spiritual deafness.

## Reflection

As someone who was born in this country, and who has led a relatively peaceful life, I cannot begin to imagine what it must be like to be displaced. To be kicked out of my homeland, and moved with thousands of my fellow citizens to another country. And in that other country, to be held in detention. To be far away from home and deprived of my freedom. But we've become all too familiar with this scenario. Syria and Afghanistan, Nauru and Manus Island... these names are like a refrain in our evening news bulletins. The people of these places know what it is like to be picked up, moved to another place, and deprived of their freedom.

It is to people such as these that today's first reading is directed. Following the defeat of the Southern Kingdom of Judah by the Babylonians, the people of Judah were carted off to exile in Babylon. Placed on the lips of the prophet Isaiah, this prophecy was directed to the exiles. And it tells what the return to the land of Judah will be like. God is coming to save his people. But how does God come?

When God comes, the earth itself is changed. The desert, the homeland of the Judaeans who had been taken into exile, will be changed, "Water will gush in the desert, streams in the wasteland. The scorched earth becomes a lake, The parched land springs of water." With the advent of God to save us, the very earth is changed and transformed. The dry desert, so symbolic of the absence of God's generosity and goodness, blooms into life.

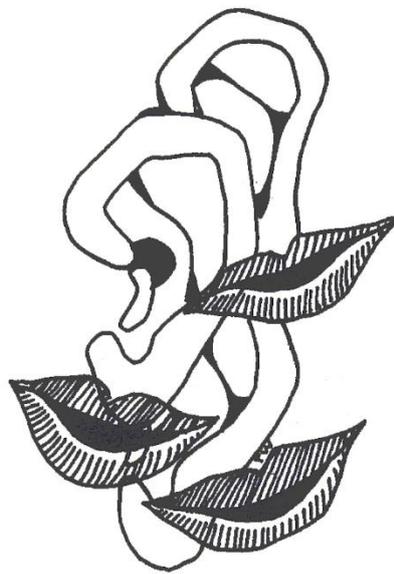
But the land is not the only thing that is changed. For when the Lord comes, "The eyes of the blind shall be opened. The ears of the deaf unsealed. The lame shall leap like a deer and the tongues of the dumb sing for joy."

You see, this is what salvation is all about. When the Exiles returned home, they would find their world transformed. But not only their world. People themselves are made whole again. The blind see; the deaf hear. The lame walk; and the mute sing songs of joy. This is what liberation from bondage is all about. Indeed, this is what means to be saved.

And this is what is at the heart of the today's gospel reading. The story we read today is, at heart, quite simple. Jesus heals a man who was deaf and unable to speak. But this simple story is more than just a story about healing. It is about being saved. The salvation which comes with the kingdom of God.

Jesus preached the coming kingdom in what he said. But Jesus also preached the coming kingdom by healing all who were sick. And healing from physical ills is one of the hallmarks of the coming kingdom of God. The kingdom will not come when there is sickness and death. The coming of the kingdom of God really is a struggle between the power of God – manifested in the healing ministry of Jesus; and the power of Satan – manifested in sickness and death. When the kingdom comes, sin and death in all their forms will be overcome. Destroyed. Wiped out. Forever. And like the man healed in today's gospel reading, we should not keep quiet about this. The man healed in our reading today published this good news widely. We too, should shout about this good news of our salvation. Just as the exiles were freed from bondage, so too, are we freed

from the forces of sin and death when the kingdom of God is made present. When the kingdom of God comes, we are freed from the forces of sin and death to the glorious freedom of the children of God. And we should sing and shout about this. We can join with the psalmist in the responsorial psalm and sing, "The Lord will reign for ever, Our God, from age to age."



**The deaf hear and  
the dumb speak.**

Mk 7:37

# Prayer of the Faithful

## Introduction

As faithful people we turn to God, who is full of compassion, to hear the prayers that we present today.

## Petitions

We pray for the Church; that we may always be active, engaged and caring in all we do to bring about the kingdom.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for all members of the Plenary Council that they may be open to the work of the Spirit in determining the future of the Church in Australia.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for justice and equality in all communities particularly during this time of COVID-19. May all people recognise the inherent dignity in each person, which is no greater or smaller than their neighbour.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those who have not heard the Good News; may their ears be opened to hear and share the joy of salvation, bought by Christ.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR *(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for those Christians whose mouth is sealed, unable to preach the Good News; may their fears, doubts, and anxieties be removed, replaced by courage, joy and perseverance to spread the Gospel.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

We pray for the poor, especially those who suffer hunger, homelessness, and war; may they be comforted in their suffering and feel Jesus' touch in those who care for them.

*(Pause)* Lord hear us OR We pray to the Lord.

## Conclusion

In faith we know that our Father will protect and nourish us all. We make these prayers through the power of the Spirit and in the name of Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## Music selections by Alessio Loiacono and Chris deSilva

### GA

All the ends of the earth. B. Dufford SJ. 420  
Amazing grace. J. Newton. 437  
City of God. D. Schutte. 498  
Come to the feast. M. Haugen .400  
Diverse in culture, nation, race. R. Duck. 520  
Eye has not seen. M. Haugen. 466  
For the healing of the nations. F. Kaan. 513  
I heard the voice of Jesus say. H. Bonar. 468  
Now in this banquet. M. Haugen. 197  
The voice of God. P. Icarus; W. Greatorex. 476  
We remember. M. Haugen. 446

### AOV1

All the ends of the earth. B. Dufford SJ. 76.  
Amazing grace. J. Newton. 29  
City of God. D. Schutte. 57  
Come to the feast. M. Haugen .151  
Flow, river flow. B. Hurd. 163  
I heard the voice of Jesus say. H. Bonar. 54  
Open my eyes. J. Manibusan. 166  
We remember. M. Haugen. 81

### AOV2

Table of plenty. D. Schutte. 20

### AOV4Kids

Many and great, O God, are your works. Traditional. 123

### CWB

In Christ there is no east or west. John Oxenham. 721

### CWBII

*Sunday by Sunday hymn suggestions*

When the king shall come again. Christopher Idle. 249  
In Christ there is no east or west. William Arthur Dunkerley. 519  
Open my eyes, Lord. Jesse Manibusan. 582  
The voice of God. Luke Connaughton. 621  
*Additional selections by Chris deSilva*  
Christ, be our light. Bernadette Farrell. 540

### S&S1

Christ, be our light. Bernadette Farrell. 105  
I am the light of the world. Greg Hayakawa. 118

### S&S2

My soul is thirsting for you. Andy Andino. 260

## **Psalms Selected by Chris deSilva and Angela McCarthy**

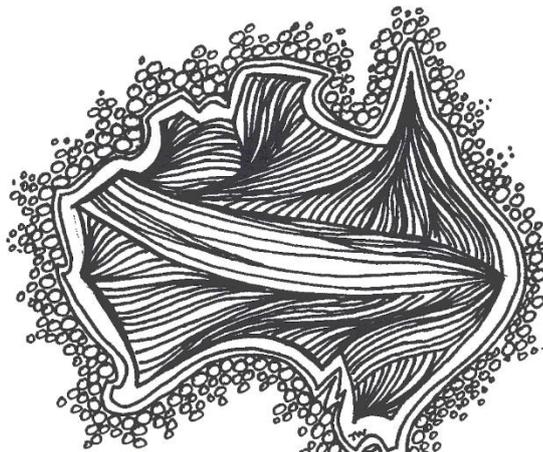
Psalm 145: *Praise the Lord, my soul! Alleluia!*

Psalm 145: Noel Ansell. CWB 416

Psalm 146: Praise the Lord: Noel Ansell. GA 83

Psalm 146 (145): Jenny O'Brien. JOBB pg. 88

Praise the Lord, my soul! LPB pg. 150



*Let all the*  *nations praise God.* Ps 67:5