

# ICHTHUS

SUNDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2021

23RD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME

Year B



Ask Jesus to open your ears and help you to listen carefully to his words today.



## ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;  
treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

We say these words or sing a hymn as the priest approaches the altar.

## COLLECT

O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption,  
look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters,  
that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom  
and an everlasting inheritance...

We ask for God's help. Listen now to the priest as he offers this prayer.



## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 35:4-7

Don't worry! Don't be afraid! God is coming to save us. Any challenges or problems we face will be sorted out. God is in charge and will heal us, making us all well. We will speak and hear properly and we will

all dance, as gracefully as deer. When God comes, everyone will sing for joy! Nothing is impossible for God. Our hope in God is like water in the desert. God will bring new life and fruitfulness to our lives.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. The prophet Isaiah brings hope to the people.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM PSALM 145

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

Or Alleluia!

The cantor or psalmist sings or says the psalm. Listen to the verses, and then respond by using these words.



## SECOND READING

JAMES 2:1-5

If we believe in God, we can't say that anyone is better than someone else. We must never judge people because of what they are wearing and treat them differently. We certainly can't treat people who are rich better than

people who are poor. Not having the distraction of money means that poor people can be rich in faith. Poor people have a special place in God's heart. In fact, God chose people who are poor to inherit the kingdom of God.

LOOK at the reader and LISTEN. Poor people have a special place in God's heart.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

We give a shout of praise to God, using these words taken from the Bible.



## DO YOU KNOW?

In our first reading we hear that God promises to heal anyone who is suffering. In the Gospel, Jesus enables a man to hear and to speak clearly for the first time. God's promise is coming true in Jesus. Jesus can help us all to hear what matters and to speak about what is important.



## THINK

On Wednesday we celebrate The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary's birthday. We don't hear anything about Mary's birth in the Gospels, but other writings tell us that Mary's parents, Anna and Joachim, pray for a child and God answers their prayer. God was involved in Mary's life from the very start.



## GOSPEL MARK 7:31-37

The Good News about Jesus is told to us by St Mark.

Having been preaching and teaching in Tyre, Jesus is on his way back home. Some people bring their deaf friend to Jesus and ask Jesus to lay his hands on him. Jesus takes the man away from the crowd, touches his ears and his tongue and prays for him. The deaf man's

ears are opened, his tongue is able to move and he can speak clearly. Jesus asks the crowd not to tell anyone, but they are unable to keep quiet. The more Jesus asks them not to say anything, the more they tell people. Everyone is just so amazed with Jesus' power.

### STAND to LISTEN

to the priest or deacon as he prepares to read the Gospel. What does the priest or deacon do to the book when he has finished reading the Gospel?

Listen to the reader as he or she encourages us to pray for situations and people in need. This is a prayer you could say privately.

Watch as the gifts are made ready and the priest washes his hands and prepares for the Eucharistic Prayer.

We listen to the prayer of praise and thanks to God.

You are invited to sing a Communion song or say this verse, which has been especially chosen for today's celebration.



PRAY

Go for a walk and listen carefully. What is God saying to you through the voices of the people you love, the sound of the wind, the noise of the city, the animal calls and the music you hear?



DO

Make a special effort to speak kindly to the people you meet this week - tell people how much you appreciate them!



## PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Dear Lord, please help us all to value and respect each other's differences. Help us to enable everyone, able-bodied and disabled, to take an active part in our community. Lord, hear my prayer.



## OFFERTORY PROCESSION

As we take our gifts of bread, wine and money to the altar, think about a time this week when you didn't hear what you were asked and think about another time when you heard and did what you needed to straight away. Say a little prayer offering these thoughts up to God.



## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Today's special prayer thanks God for fulfilling all God's promises to us.

What can you give special thanks for today?



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

As the priest extends his hands, we say the prayer that Jesus taught us.

## COMMUNION ANTIPHON

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.



## MY PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Thank you, Jesus, for loving me and healing my hurts. Thank you for always being with me and helping me to understand that I can trust you. Amen.



We take Jesus with us to carry on the work that he did on earth, until we meet again next Sunday.

Go in peace.



is the Greek word for "fish" and was used in the catacombs as a sign for early Christians. It is made up from the first letter of five Greek titles for the Lord:

- I (Jesus)
- X (Christos)
- Θ (Theou/God's)
- Υ (Uios/Son)
- Σ (Soter/Saviour)

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