

Sunday 5th September 2021

Trinity 14

In today's Gospel reading, Jesus heals two people. We are going to think about the second – the man with a hearing and speech impairment.

Our Gospel reading is Mark 7. 24-37.

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

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.'

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Let's think about how we can ask God to "open our ears" too!

We may not have any trouble physically hearing things, but sometimes we forget to truly listen and don't pay attention or understand what the Lord says to us through his word and through others. We want our ears, mouths, and hearts to be receptive to hearing and sharing his truths.

Notice that, in the story, Jesus steps away from the noise and busy-ness of the crowd and takes the man with him. We see him take a moment to ask God for help and then see him act.

We have had some difficult situations to deal with over recent months and there will be more to come as we ease out of the pandemic, returning to situations, including school, where we may sometimes feel uncomfortable. Jesus shows us that, in any situation, we can ask God for help and listen to him, even in busy or seemingly overcrowded moments. If we really listen, we will find God in every place and at every time, and know the peace and healing that God wants to share with us.

We can ask Jesus to open our ears so that we are always listening for his voice. We can ask him to open our mouths so that we can tell other people about his love. We trust that he will help us, because, as we have heard, Jesus does all things well!

A prayer for this week:

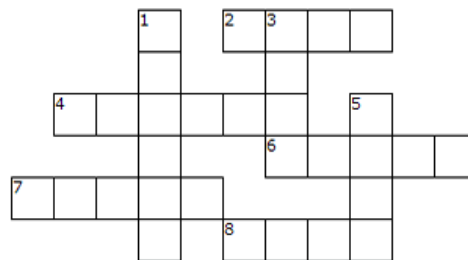
Dear God,
 Thank you for your amazing power!
 You do all things well.
 Thank you for your work in our lives.
 Please open our ears to hear your word
 and open our mouths to share your love with others. Amen.

Have a go at these activities:

He does all things well!

"Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak."
 Mark 7:37b (NLT)

Based on Mark 7:31-37



ACROSS

2. Unable to hear
4. One of the long, thin parts of the hand that bend and hold things
6. To use the voice to say words or converse with someone
7. The Son of God
8. To make healthy again

DOWN

1. The fleshy part inside the mouth used in tasting and in speech
3. The two organs in the head by which people or animals hear sounds
5. To say or to give information to someone; to report

HEAL	DEAF	SPEAK	TELL
JESUS	FINGER	TONGUE	EARS

He does all things well!

"Everything he does is wonderful. He even makes the deaf to hear and gives speech to those who cannot speak." Mark 7:37b (NLT)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	M	D	L	W	V	S	P	G	R	H	O	N	J	C	K	E	T	Q	F	B	A	U	X	I	Y

- 3-17-22-20 _____
- 18-12-23-15-11 _____
- 7-8-17-22-16 _____
- 18-22-4-16 _____
- 18-12-13-9-23-17 _____
- 12-8-17-13-17-3 _____
- 2-23-18-17 _____
- 11-17-22-10 _____

TOUCH	SPEAK	TALK	TONGUE
DEAF	OPENED	MUTE	HEAR

He does all things well!

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the page. You can check your answers in Mark 7:31-37 (NIV)



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 _____ and could hardly _____, and they begged him to place his _____ on the man.

After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his _____ into the man's _____. Then he spit and touched the man's _____. 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 _____, his tongue was loosened and he began to _____ 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 _____ and the mute _____."

Mark 7:31-37 (NIV)

ears	speak	tongue	opened	talk
speak	fingers	deaf	hear	hand

A colouring page:

