

Liturgy Alive of 23rd Sunday in ordinary time B.

Greetings

Blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ,
who did all things well.
He makes the deaf hear
and the mute speak.
May he open our ears to his Word

and may he always be with you. *R/ And also with you.*

Introduction by the Celebrant

A. Lord, Open Our Ears and Lips

We live in era of communication explosion: fax, E-mail, internet or web, and so on. And at the same time it is an age of isolation and loneliness of people. What people have is information, and what they have lost is personal relations. In this eucharist we pray to the Lord, to open our ears, that we may again listen to one another and to God speaking to us. May we also learn again to speak to one another, person to person.

Penitential Act

We ask the Lord and one another
to forgive us that we have been deaf
to the Lord speaking in his Word
and in the cries of the poor.
(PAUSE)
Lord Jesus, touch our ears
and open them to your message
and to the appeals of those in need:
Lord, have mercy. *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Jesus Christ, touch our tongues,
that we may speak words of endearment
to those we love:
Christ, have mercy. *R/ Christ, have mercy.*

Lord Jesus, touch our eyes,
that we may see and feel the needs
of those lonely and abandoned:
Lord, have mercy *R/ Lord, have mercy.*

Lord, touch us with your forgiving hand
and open us to your love
and to the needs of those around us.

Lead us to everlasting life. *R/ Amen.*

Opening Prayer

A. Lord, Open Our Ears and Lips

Let us pray that God's Spirit
may open us to all that is good
(PAUSE)
God our Father,
you wait for us to be open to you, to people,
and to all that is true, beautiful and good.
Let your Spirit open our ears
to the liberating word of your Son.
Let him open our hearts and hands
to everyone who needs us.
Let him open our lips,
that we may proclaim everywhere
the marvels you do for us.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading Introduction: **The Ears of the Deaf Shall Be Opened**

To a people deaf and blind to God, the prophet announces the joy of salvation: they will see and hear and become new.

Second Reading Introduction: **No Double Standard! God Loves the Poor**

It is a betrayal of the Christian sense of community to honor the rich and humiliate the poor, says James. God loves the poor and makes them rich in faith.

Gospel Introduction: **Be Opened!**

The deaf-mute stands for those closed to God. Jesus came to open people to God, so that they can praise his great deeds. His attention to the poor is the sign that the kingdom has come.

General Intercessions

Let us pray with fullest trust to the Father in heaven who always listens to what we ask him in Jesus' name, and let us say: *R/ Listen to your people Lord.*

- For the Church, that we may not only love the poor and care for them, but speak out with courage when they are trampled upon, let us pray: *R/ Listen to your people Lord.*
- For educators in the faith - priests, sisters, catechists, teachers - that they themselves may listen to God's word and then pass it on with conviction and love, let us pray: *R/ Listen to your people Lord.*
- For the poor, the sick and the handicapped, that in them we may recognize and welcome the suffering Lord himself, let us pray: *R/ Listen to your people Lord.*
- For those who are deaf and blind to other people and to their love and needs, that their eyes and ears may be opened to the treasures of love and sharing, let us pray: *R/ Listen to your people Lord.*
- For all of us, that our empty hearts may become spacious and generous, like doors open to all people and to all needs, let us pray: *R/ Listen to your people Lord.*

God our Father, listen to us as we pray to you in the name of Jesus our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Lord our God, merciful Father,
you set the table of your Son
for rich and poor alike.
By the strength of this bread of life
do not allow us to remain deaf
to your voice crying out
in the needs of the poor and oppressed.
Teach and help us to speak to them
not just words of pity
but deeds of justice, dignity and love.
May this be the sign
that your Son is alive among us,

he who is our Lord and Savior for ever. *R/ Amen.*

Introduction to the Eucharistic Prayer

Let us with one heart and voice give praise and thanks to our saving God. He showed the power of his love in Jesus, his Son, who did all things well. He has opened our ears to his Good News and made us capable of praising God in the name of all that lives.

Invitation to the Lord's Prayer

Thankful for God's great deeds of love,
we cannot remain deaf or silent,
and so we let our tongues pray to our Father

in the words of Jesus, our Savior: *R/ Our Father...*

Deliver Us

Deliver us, Lord, from all our infirmities,
from being deaf to your word
and blind to the needs of our brothers and sisters.
Make us responsive to your love
and help us to bring your joy
to all those around us,
as we wait in joyful hope
for the coming in glory among us

of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. *R/ For the kingdom...*

Invitation to Communion

This is Jesus the Lord
who came to heal us from sin's blindness
and to open our ears and hearts
to his Good News of God's love.
Happy are we to hear his voice

as we eat from his table. *R/ Lord, I am not worthy...*

Prayer after Communion

Saving God,
in your Son Jesus Christ you have chosen
what is poor and weak in this world
to be rich in faith and love
and to be heirs to your kingdom.
He has done all things well.
Speak through us who were once
faint-hearted and tongue-tied,
deeds of mercy and hope,
for you have healed and freed us all

through Jesus Christ our Lord. *R/ Amen.*

Blessing

Jesus has been with us
in this eucharistic celebration
to bring us out of our isolation
and to open us, in respect and love,
to God and to our neighbor, that is, to all.
Like Jesus, may we become available,
particularly to the poorest among us,
and let them feel
that, with God, we too care.
May almighty God give you this openness and bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. *R/ Amen.*

Let us go in peace
and proclaim with our lives

the wonderful things God has done to us. *R/ Thanks be to God.*