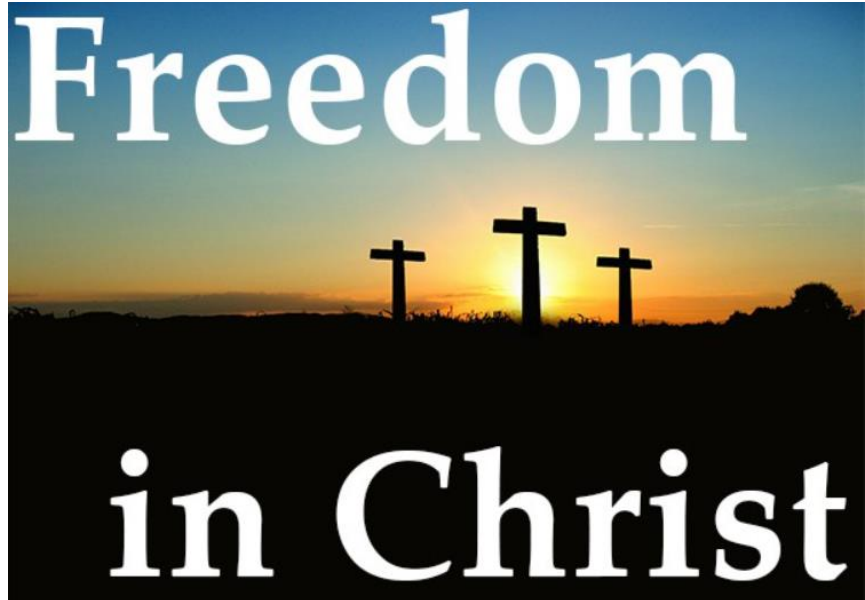




## COLLECT

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. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.



Amen



**READING 1 – Isaiah 35:4-7**

***A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah***

Thus says the Lord:

- <sup>4</sup> 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.”
- <sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened  
and the ears of the deaf unstopped.
- <sup>6</sup> Then will the lame leap like a deer,  
and the mute tongue shout for joy.  
Water will gush forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert.
- <sup>7</sup> The burning sand will become a pool,  
the thirsty ground bubbling springs.  
In the haunts where jackals once lay,  
grass and reeds and papyrus will grow.



**RESPONSORIAL PSALM - Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10**

**R. Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The God of Jacob keeps faith forever,  
secures justice for the oppressed,  
gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

**/R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The LORD gives sight to the blind;  
the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.

The LORD loves the just;  
the LORD protects strangers.

**/R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

The fatherless and the widow the LORD sustains,  
but the way of the wicked he thwarts.

The LORD shall reign forever;  
your God, O Zion, through all generations.

Alleluia.

**/R/ Praise the Lord, my soul!**

MY BROTHERS,  
**SHOW NO PARTIALITY**

AS YOU HOLD THE FAITH IN OUR LORD  
JESUS CHRIST, THE LORD OF GLORY.

**JAMES 2:1**



**READING 2 – James 2:1-5**

***A reading from the Letter of Saint James***

<sup>1</sup> My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favoritism.

<sup>2</sup> Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in.

<sup>3</sup> If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, “Here’s a good seat for you,” but say to the poor man, “You stand there” or “Sit on the floor by my feet,” <sup>4</sup> have you not discriminated among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts?

<sup>5</sup> Listen, my dear brothers and sisters:

Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?



## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people.

## ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA

(Matthew 4:23)



### GOSPEL – Mark 7:31-37

#### A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

<sup>31</sup>Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis.

<sup>32</sup> There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him.

<sup>33</sup> 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. <sup>34</sup> He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). <sup>35</sup> At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

<sup>36</sup> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup> People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

---

### **A PRAYER CONCERNING JUDGING OTHERS (Matthew 7:1-3)**

<sup>1</sup> "Do not judge, or you too will be judged. <sup>2</sup> For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. <sup>3</sup> "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?"



Dear God,

When I see a wrong attitude or behavior in other people, I always have the choice of how I will react. All too often, I respond with criticism or judgment. I find myself criticizing or lecturing the other person without any intent to see them improve or succeed. In the process, I hurt their feelings and I usually drive them away. But, Lord, I know that this is not your way! You call on me to carefully look at my own behavior before I express an opinion about that of someone else. Please help me learn this important first step to responding with an attitude of love and humility. Only with that mindset will I be able to offer constructive criticism – where my goal is to build a strong, positive relationship, and to help the other person become who you created them to be. Guard my heart and my lips, keeping me from harsh judgment and hurtful words. Remind me to always let love be my guide.

Amen