

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE
THE BODY OF CHRIST: THE EARS OF CHRIST
MARCH 17, 2021

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

P: We are tied up in the knots of sin and death, O God.

C: From your temple you heard our voice, and our cry came to your ears.

P: Often we deceive ourselves, being hearers only and not doers of the word.

C: From your temple you heard our voice, and our cry came to your ears.

P: You always hear our cries for help, our pleas for mercy, and our groans of agony; but we remain deaf to your call to love and serve.

C: From your temple you heard our voice, and our cry came to your ears.

P: We desire to hear your word, “Ephphatha; be opened,” O Lord, and to speak it to others. Open our ears and release our tongues to hear and to speak your love for us all.

C: From your temple you heard our voice, and our cry came to your ears.

P: You are always more willing to hear than we are to pray; you are always more willing to give than we are to ask. But you can open our ears to your voice.

C: You have done all things well; you have even made the deaf hear and the dumb speak.

Opening Hymn: #808 “Lord, Jesus Shall Be My Song” vs. 1, 2

Scripture Lessons:

First Lesson: 2 Samuel 22:1-7

David spoke to the LORD the words of this song on the day when the LORD delivered him from the hand of all his enemies, and from the hand of Saul. He said: The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my savior; you save me from violence. I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, and I am saved from my enemies. For the waves of death encompassed me, the torrents of perdition assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me, the snares of death confronted me. In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I called. From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry came to his ears.

Here ends the first lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm from Psalm 86

Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.

C: O Lord, in mercy bend your ear to hear my urgent cry.

You are my God; be gracious to me, O Lord, for to you do I cry all day long. Gladden the soul of your servant, for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

C: In time of trouble turn and hear; with saving love draw nigh.

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

C: O Lord, in mercy bend your ear to hear my urgent cry.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication. I call on you, for you will answer me.

C: In time of trouble turn and hear; with saving love draw nigh

Here ends the Psalm. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: James 1:19-25

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Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.

Here ends the second lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, “He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak.”

Here ends the Gospel. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: The Ears of Christ

Evening Hymn: #759 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee”

Prayers for the Body of Christ

P: Let us pray for the whole body of Christ and for all people according to their needs. For all the nations of the world, that their ears may hear the cries of their people for justice, peace and freedom, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For your body, the church, that it may raise to your ears continual praise, in the sound of many tongues, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For our congregation, that we may hear with your ears of mercy the cries of those who are distress and speak to them your word of hope, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For the poor and the hungry, that their need will be the sound of opportunity for those who can serve them, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: For the sick (especially...) that their prayers for health will come speedily to your merciful ears, for you are compassionate towards those who call upon you, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, hear our prayer.

P: Into your care, O Lord, we entrust all for whom we pray, believing in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord hear you and comfort you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace

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P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord hear you and comfort you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn: #808 “Lord, Jesus Shall Be My Song” vs. 3, 4

Go in peace and listen for God is always speaking.

C: Thanks be to God.