

## Scriptures September 1, 2024

### First Reading

#### James 2:1-17 NRSV

##### Warning against Partiality

**2** My brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?<sup>[b]</sup> **2** For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, **3** and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet',<sup>[c]</sup> **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.<sup>[d]</sup> Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? **6** But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? **7** Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

**8** You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' **9** But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. **10** For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. **11** For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. **13** For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

##### Faith without Works Is Dead

**14** What good is it, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[e]</sup> if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? **15** If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, **16** and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? **17** So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

## Second Reading

### Mark 7:24-37 NRSV

#### The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

<sup>24</sup> From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.<sup>[a]</sup> He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice,<sup>25</sup> but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.<sup>26</sup> Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.<sup>27</sup> 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.'<sup>28</sup> But she answered him, 'Sir,<sup>[b]</sup> even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.'<sup>29</sup> Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.'<sup>30</sup> So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

#### Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

<sup>31</sup> 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.<sup>32</sup> They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him.<sup>33</sup> He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.<sup>34</sup> Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.'<sup>35</sup> And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus<sup>[c]</sup> ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it.<sup>37</sup> They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'