

We hear in our readings today, that God will open the eyes of the blind; that the deaf will hear; the lame shall walk and the dumb sing for joy. And in the Gospel we hear the story of how Jesus healed the deaf man who had a speech impediment.



The writer of Mark's Gospel is telling us more than a healing miracle. Jesus is saying to each one of us, "I'm not interested in the sounds you hear with your ears and what you say with your mouth. I'm interested in whether the sounds you hear in your ears are listened to by your heart and whether the words of praise that come forth from you always come from your heart."

When a child is baptised — after the baptism and after the lighted candle, the Light of the World, is given to the parents and godparents — the priest holds the child in his arms and he touches the ears and he touches the mouth and he says the prayer, "The Lord Jesus made the deaf hear and the dumb speak. May he soon touch your ears to receive his word, and your mouth to proclaim his faith, to the praise and glory of God the Father."



In the second reading we are reminded that God makes no distinctions between peoples of different class, ethnicity, gender or religion. The letter of St James says, "*It was those who are poor according to the world that God chose, to be rich in faith and to be the heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him.*"

How comforting it is to know that God accepts us as we are. We do not need to pretend. If we come to God in love and in trust, God will heal us and fill us with more riches than we could ever imagine. Let us pray that our ears, mouth and heart may be opened to receive God's word, so that we can give praise to God through our words, our actions and our love.