**05 September 2021**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity**

**Collect**

Lord God, defend your Church from all false teaching  
and give to your people knowledge of your truth, that we may enjoy eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**First Reading** Isaiah 35:4-7

**4** 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.”

**5**Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped.  
**6**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.  
**7**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.

**Psalm 125**

Refrain: Glorious things are spoken of you, Zion, city of our God.

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,

which cannot be moved, but stands fast for ever.

2 As the hills stand about Jerusalem, so the Lord

stands round about his people, from this time forth for

evermore.

3 The sceptre of wickedness shall not hold sway over

the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous

turn their hands to evil.

4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good, and to

those who are true of heart.

5 Those who turn aside to crooked ways the Lord shall

take away with the evildoers; but let there be peace

upon Israel.

Refrain: Glorious things are spoken of you, Zion, city of our God. God of power, you are strong to save and you never fail those who trust in you; keep us under your protection and spread abroad your reign of peace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Gospel** Mark 7.24-37

24Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit

immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27He 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.’ 28But she answered him, ‘Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children’s crumbs.’ 29Then he said to her, ‘For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.’ 30So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

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

**Post Communion**

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.