

## Psalm 146

<sup>1</sup>Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

<sup>2</sup>I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God all my life long. <sup>3</sup>Do not put your trust in princes, in mortals, in whom there is no help.

<sup>4</sup>When their breath departs, they return to the earth; on that very day their plans perish. <sup>5</sup>Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD their God, <sup>6</sup>who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them; who keeps faith forever; <sup>7</sup>who executes justice for the oppressed; who gives food to the hungry. The LORD sets the prisoners free; <sup>8</sup>the LORD opens the eyes of the blind. The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous. <sup>9</sup>The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow, but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin. <sup>10</sup>The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, for all generations. Praise the LORD!

## Second Reading: James 2:1-10, 14-17

2 My brothers and sisters, when you show favoritism you deny the faithfulness of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has been resurrected in glory. <sup>2</sup> Imagine two people coming into your meeting. One has a gold ring and fine clothes, while the other is poor, dressed in filthy rags. <sup>3</sup> Then suppose that you were to take special notice of the one wearing fine clothes, saying, "Here's an excellent place. Sit here." But to the poor person you say, "Stand over there"; or, "Here, sit at my feet."<sup>4</sup> Wouldn't you have shown favoritism among yourselves and become evil-minded judges?

<sup>5</sup> My dear brothers and sisters, listen! Hasn't God chosen those who are poor by worldly standards to be rich in terms of faith? Hasn't God chosen the poor as heirs of the kingdom he has promised to those who love him? <sup>6</sup> But you have dishonored the poor. Don't the wealthy make life difficult for you? Aren't they the ones who drag you into court? <sup>7</sup> Aren't they the ones who insult the good name spoken over you at your baptism?

<sup>8</sup> You do well when you really fulfill the royal law found in scripture, *Love your neighbor as yourself*. <sup>9</sup> But when you show favoritism, you are committing a sin, and by that same law you are exposed as a lawbreaker. <sup>10</sup> Anyone who tries to keep all of the Law but fails at one point is guilty of failing to keep all of it. <sup>14</sup> My brothers and sisters, what good is it if people say they have faith but do nothing to show it? Claiming to have faith can't save anyone, can it? <sup>15</sup> Imagine a brother or sister who is naked and never has enough food to eat. <sup>16</sup> What if one of you said, "Go in peace!

Stay warm! Have a nice meal!”? What good is it if you don’t actually give them what their body needs? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith is dead when it doesn’t result in faithful activity.

#### Gospel: Mark 7:24-37

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] 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, <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, 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. <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 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.”

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