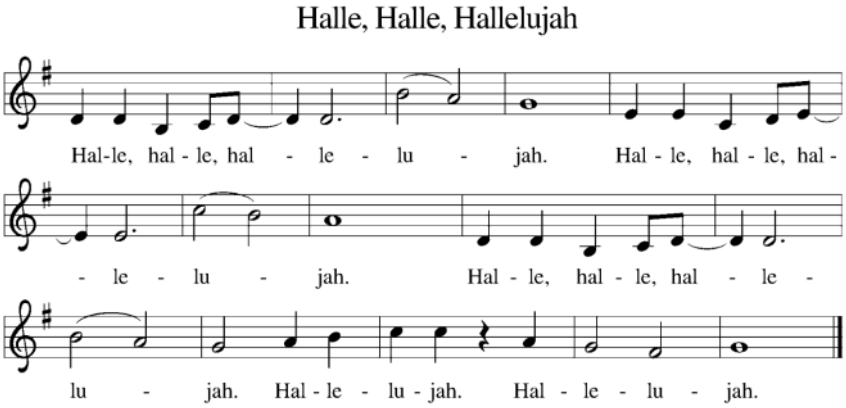
SECOND READING: James 2:1-17

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

2 My brothers and sisters, do not claim the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ of glory while showing partiality. **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 in a good place, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there," or, "Sit by my footstool," **4** have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? **5** Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. 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 dishonored the poor person. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into the courts? **7** Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?
8 If you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you do well. **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 you murder, you have become a transgressor of[a] the law. **12** So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. **13** For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.
14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? **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.
Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Please stand in body or spirit.* "Halle, Halle, Halle" - HAL H. HOPSON

Music: Caribbean traditional

GOSPEL: Mark 7:24-37

The holy gospel according to Mark 7th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

In Mark's gospel, encounters with women usually signify turning points in Jesus' ministry. Here, a conversation with a Syrophoenician woman marks the beginning of his mission to the Gentiles.

24 From there he 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, **25** but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. **26** Now the woman was a gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. **27** 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." **28** But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." **29** Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter." **30** And when she went home, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone. **31** Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went by way of Sidon toward the Sea of Galilee, in the region

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

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

KIDS CONNECTION

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *Please stand in body or spirit* ……..Hymn #576 *"We All Are One in Mission"*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

PLEASE BE SEATED

MEAL

ADULT CHOIR *"This is the Day that the Lord has Made!"- JOHN CARTER*

*This is the day that the Lord has made! Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Let the hills sing his praises! Let the mighty sea roar! Let us rejoice!
Let the heavens declare it! Let us rejoice and be glad!*

*Let us rejoice in the mercy that calls us! Let us rejoice in the works of his hand!
Let us rejoice, for whatever befalls us we can rejoice and be glad!*

OFFERING *Please stand in body or spirit* ……..Hymn #512 *"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"*

OFFERING PRAYER *Please stand in body or spirit*

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, source of every gift of your creation. By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

STAND

PREFACE

It is indeed right ...join their unending hymn:

ACCLAMATION AND AMEN