

# Readings for 8<sup>th</sup> September 2024

*(from New International Version bible)*

## Psalm 125

<sup>1</sup> Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be shaken but endures forever. <sup>2</sup> As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore. <sup>3</sup> The scepter of the wicked will not remain over the land allotted to the righteous, for then the righteous might use their hands to do evil. <sup>4</sup> Lord, do good to those who are good, to those who are upright in heart. <sup>5</sup> But those who turn to crooked ways the Lord will banish with the evildoers. Peace be on Israel.

## A reading from Isaiah 35:4-7a

<sup>4</sup> 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." <sup>5</sup> Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7a</sup> The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs.

## A reading from James 2:14-18

<sup>14</sup> What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save them? <sup>15</sup> Suppose a brother or a sister is without clothes and daily food. <sup>16</sup> If one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it? <sup>17</sup> In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. <sup>18</sup> But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by my deeds.

# A reading from the Gospel of Mark 7:24-37

<sup>24</sup> Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. <sup>25</sup> In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an impure spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs." <sup>28</sup> "Lord," she replied, "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup> Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup> She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone. <sup>31</sup> Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged Jesus to place his hand on him. <sup>33</sup> After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means "Be opened!"). <sup>35</sup> At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. <sup>36</sup> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup> People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."