

# “Mission for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing” Sunday

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## Suggested Lessons

### First Lesson: Isaiah 35:4-7

This is the first lesson appointed for Pentecost 16B. It depicts Messiah’s power to meet both physical and spiritual needs. Physical weakness and trouble mirror the absolute spiritual need in which we were born. Jesus pointed to his healing work as proof of his Messianic identity (Matthew 11:5; Luke 7:22). As we proclaim the gospel to all, the Word has the power to open the ears of the spiritually deaf and give sight to the spiritually blind.

### Second Lesson: Romans 10:8-17

This lesson appears twice in the lectionary (Lent 1C – Romans 10:8b-13; Epiphany 5C – Romans 10:13-17). It emphasizes the importance of all hearing the gospel, because, just as all are alike under sin, so all alike are saved through faith that comes from hearing the Word of Christ. It is our privilege and responsibility to confess the message of the gospel, that others might hear it and be saved.

### Gospel: Mark 7:31-37

This is the gospel appointed for Pentecost 16B. “He has done everything well.” What an understatement! The remarkable personal attention that Jesus shows to this frightened, deaf man is surpassed only by the complete healing accomplished by this miracle. The man can not only hear again, but can speak plainly, as if he had been hearing all along.

### Psalm 146

## Alternate Lessons

1 Chronicles 16:23-32

Isaiah 52:7-10 (Christmas A-B-C)

Matthew 11:2-11 (Advent 3A)

Luke 7:18-28

## Suggested Hymns

CW 282 – Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear

CW 353 – Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

CW 520 – Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old

CW 560 – I Hear the Savior Calling

CW 561 – Lord, Speak to Us that We May Speak

CW 570 – O Christians, Haste

CW 575 – How Shall They Hear the Word of God

CWS 735 – Speak, O Lord

CWS 778 – “How Shall They Hear,” Who Have Not Heard

## Prayers

### Possible Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, you have done everything well. Through your powerful Word of truth, open hearts to trust your saving work for all people and confess your saving name to all people, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

### Possible Prayer of the Church

**M:** God of grace, we thank you for your Son, who came to save all people. We marvel at his mercy that daily reached out to people in need and showed them unconditional love.

**C:** **Open our eyes to see those in need around us and our ears to hear their cries for help.**

**M:** God of grace, we marvel at your power, by which you brought healing to the sick, hearing to the deaf, sight to the blind, and life to the dead. But even more remarkable was your power to bring life to hearts dead in sin.

**C:** **You have given us eyes, ears, and hearts of faith. Now make our mouths bold to confess all that you have done for us.**

**M:** God of grace, you know all things. You know those whom society too easily forgets—those who are different in ability, language, culture, or class. Forgive us for overlooking these precious souls for whom Jesus gave his life.

**C:** **Make us bold to be your witnesses to all people.**

M: Bless our Synod, as together we train and send out workers into your harvest fields. Give us joy in our partnership in the gospel and zeal to proclaim your name wherever we go.

**C: We thank you for those who spread your Word where we cannot go.**

P: Be with those among us and around us who are sick and suffering, alone and afraid, forgotten and fearful, those who face trials of various kinds, who walk through life carrying heavy burdens.

**C: Grant rest and peace to their troubled hearts and relief from their trials, according to your mercy.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow*

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

M: Confident that you hear perfectly every prayer offered in the name of Jesus our Savior, we join to pray as he has taught us: **(Lord's Prayer)**