Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Year B

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125
Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146
James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17 • Mark 7:24-37
Do not ... crush the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD pleads their cause ...

Proverbs 22:22ac, 23a
Peter and John Healing the Cripple at the Temple Gate, detail

Rembrandt
Cooper-Hewitt
New York, NY
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

Isaiah 35:5-6a
The LORD watches over the strangers; he upholds the orphan and the widow ... Praise the LORD!

Psalm 146:9a, 1a
Charity Bazaar for Widows and Orphans

Library of Congress
Washington, DC
My brothers and sisters ... 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,

James 2:1a, 2
and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, "Have a seat here, please," while to the one who is poor you say, "Stand there,"

James 2:3a
have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges ... ?

James 2:4a
Homeless

Jens Galschiot
European Parliament
Brussels, Belgium
Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom ... ?

James 2:5b
The Rag Collectors -- Eugène Laermans, Museum Dhondt-Dhaenens, Deurle, Belgium
[Working in the Cotton Fields]

Earle Richardson
Smithsonian Museum of American Art
Washington, DC
You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

James 2:8
If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 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?

James 2:15
So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

James 2:17
Priest reaching out to help a man with leprosy

Basílica de São Francisco das Chagas
Caninde, Brazil
... a woman... a Gentile ... whose little daughter had an unclean spirit ... came and begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter.

Mark 7:25a, 26a, 25b, 26b
The Cannanite Woman -- Tres Riches Heures du duc de Berry, Musée Condé, Chantilly, France
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."

Mark 7:27
Jesus and the Canaanite Woman

Peter Koenig
But she answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

Mark 7:28
Jesus and the Canaanite Woman

Ilyas Basim Khuri Bazzi Rahib
Walters Art Museum
Baltimore, MD
Then he said to her, "For saying that, you may go--the demon has left your daughter."

Mark 7:29
Young Girl of Bethlehem

Charles Verlat
Painting, 1876