

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME  
✠ YEAR C ✠

# JUBILEE: NEW BEGINNINGS



## READINGS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### FIRST READING

- Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 -

*Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate, he read out of the book from daybreak till midday, in the presence of the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand; and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law. Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. He opened the scroll so that all people might see it—for he was standing higher up than any of the people—and, as he opened it, all the people rose. Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people, their hands raised high, answered, “Amen, amen!” Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground. Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read. Then Nehemiah, that is, His Excellency, and Ezra the priest-scribe and the Levites who were instructing the people said to all the people: “Today is holy to the Lord your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep”—for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law. He said further: “Go, eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks, and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared; for today is holy to our Lord. Do not be saddened this day, for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength!”*

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

- Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15 -

**R: Your words, Lord, are Spirit and life.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul;  
the decree of the Lord is trustworthy, giving wisdom to the simple.

**R:**

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the command of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eye.

**R:**

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the Lord are true, all of them just.

**R:**

Let the words of my mouth and the thought of my heart  
find favor before you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

**R:**



## SECOND READING

- 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 -

*Brothers and sisters: As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.*

*Now the body is not a single part, but many. If a foot should say, "Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong less to the body. Or if an ear should say, "Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," it does not for this reason belong any less to the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I do not need you," nor again the head to the feet, "I do not need you." Indeed, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are all the more necessary, and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable we surround with greater propriety, whereas our more presentable parts do not need this. But God has so constructed the body as to give greater honor to a part that is without it, so that there may be no division in the body, but that the parts may have the same concern for one another. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honored, all the parts share its joy.*

*Now you are Christ's body, and individually parts of it. Some people God has designated in the church to be, first, apostles; second, prophets; third, teachers; then, mighty deeds; then of healing assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?*

## GOSPEL

- Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21 -

*Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.*

*Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.*

*He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the Sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written: The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,/ because he has anointed me/ to bring glad tidings to the poor./ He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives/ and recovery of sight to the blind,/ to let the oppressed go free,/ and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord./ Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him. He said to them, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."*

# Sunday

## OPENING PRAYER

Bless the LORD, my soul!  
LORD, my God, you are great indeed!  
You are clothed with majesty and glory,  
robed in light as with a cloak.  
You spread out the heavens like a tent;  
you raised your palace upon the waters.  
You make the clouds your chariot;  
you travel on the wings of the wind.  
You make the winds your messengers;  
flaming fire, your ministers.  
You fixed the earth on its foundation, never to be moved.

How varied are your works, LORD!  
In wisdom you have wrought them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.  
Look at the sea, great and wide!  
It teems with countless beings,  
living things both large and small.

All of these look to you  
to give them food in due time.  
When you give to them, they gather;  
when you open your hand, they are well filled.  
When you hide your face, they are lost.  
When you take away their breath,  
they perish and return to the dust from which they came.  
When you send forth your breath, they are created,  
and you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the LORD endure forever;  
may the LORD be glad in these works!

—Psalm 104:1-5, 24-25, 27-31

O God, let your Spirit be upon us.  
Let us hear your good news of release, sight, and liberty,  
and rejoice together in your year of favor,  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.



## LECTIO DIVINA ✨ SACRED READING OF SCRIPTURE



Feel free to take notes on the video reflection in the space below.

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## LECTIO DIVINA ✨ MEDITATION

**Why do you think that Jesus chose the passage from Isaiah that he did?**

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**What was supposed to happen during the Jubilee Year?**

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**How does the Jubilee apply to us?**

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**All of us have certain spiritual blind spots, and we're often surprised when God opens our eyes to them. What is a spiritual blind spot and how can you make a new beginning once you recognize it?**

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**Has there been a time in your life when someone paid a debt for you?  
Describe the gratitude you felt, and how you expressed it.**

**How can you express more gratitude to God for paying the debt of your sins on the cross?**

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LECTIO DIVINA ✠ PRAYER & RESOLUTION

**PRAYER:** Recall Jesus' words from today's Gospel reading about coming to proclaim liberty to the captives. Prayerfully ask Jesus to show you an area of your life where you are in slavery to sin and in need of the release, healing, and relief from oppression that he offers.

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**RESOLUTION:** Recognizing our spiritual poverty—our complete dependence on God—talk to Jesus about areas where you need to be released and ask him what you can do to seek healing during the week. Ask for his help in this area.

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***“How beautiful upon the mountains/ are the feet of the  
one bringing good news,/ Announcing peace, bearing good  
news,/ announcing salvation, saying to Zion,  
‘Your God is King!’ ” —Isaiah 52:7***

# Monday

In the reading from Nehemiah 8, the people began weeping as they heard the Word of God read and explained to them. During prayer, recall a Scripture passage that strikes you with particular force, and reflect on what it means to you.

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*“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.”—Hebrews 4:12 (RSV)*

# Tuesday

The reading this week from Nehemiah 8 advises the people not to grieve on hearing the word of God, but to celebrate a holy day, “for rejoicing in the Lord must be your strength.” Do you experience joy as a feeling or as a decision? How does it strengthen you?

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*“Restore to me the joy of thy salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”—Psalm 51:12 (RSV)*



## Wednesday

In this week's Gospel reading, Luke states the reason why he wanted to write an "orderly sequence" for Theophilus (a name that means "friend of God"); namely, "that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received." Ask God to show you how knowing the truth can build your friendship with him.

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*"For with you is the fountain of life,/ and in your light we see light."*

—Psalm 36:10

## Thursday

The video this week compared the return of the land during the Jubilee year to the promise of Paradise that Jesus offered the "good thief" on the cross. How does that same promise affect the way you approach God?

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*"And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'"*

—Luke 23:43 (RSV)

## Friday

Jesus' arrival in our midst means that we can be released from the slavery of sin. As you come before him in prayer this week, ask him to reveal to you an area of sin that enslaves you, one from which you have been unable to free yourself. Then write a short prayer for release from that sin.

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***“Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life.” —Revelation 22:14 (RSV)***

## Saturday

When Jesus proclaims “a year acceptable to the Lord,” his proclamation actually begins that “acceptable year.” How has that “acceptable year” begun for you?

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***“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” —Revelation 2:7 (RSV)***