

69 THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8.1-4a, 5-6, 8-10++

The people understood the book of the Law as it was read to them.

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.

- 1 All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel.
- 2 Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month.
- 3 He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.
- 4 The scribe Ezra stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the purpose.
- 5 And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.
- 6 Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground.
- 8 So the Levites read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.
- 9 And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ➤

10 Then Ezra said to them,
“Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine
and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared,
for this day is holy to our Lord;
and do not be grieved,
for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19.7, 8, 9, 14 (R. Jn 6.63)

R. Yours words, Lord, are spirit and life.

7 The law of the Lord is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure,
making wise the simple. **R.**

8 The precepts of the Lord are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear,
enlightening the eyes. **R.**

9 The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether. **R.**

14 Let the words of my mouth
and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. **R.**

SECOND READING (longer)

1 Corinthians 12.12-30

You form the body of Christ, yet each of you is a different part of it.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

12 Just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.

13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body
—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—
and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.

15 If the foot would say,
“Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,”
that would not make it any less a part of the body.

16 And if the ear would say,
“Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,”
that would not make it any less a part of the body.

17 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?

18 But as it is,
God arranged the members in the body,
each one of them, as he chose.

19 If all were a single member, where would the body be?
20 As it is, there are many members, yet one body.

21 The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,”
nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.”

22 On the contrary,
the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable,
23 and those members of the body that we think less honourable
we clothe with greater honour,
and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect;
24 whereas our more respectable members do not need this.

But God has so arranged the body,
giving the greater honour to the inferior member,
25 that there may be no dissension within the body,
but the members may have the same care for one another.

26 If one member suffers, all suffer together with it;
if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it.

27 Now you are the body of Christ
and individually members of it.

28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles,
second prophets, third teachers;
then deeds of power, then gifts of healing,
forms of assistance, forms of leadership,
various kinds of tongues.

29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets?
Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?
30 Do all possess gifts of healing?
Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

SECOND READING (shorter)

1 Corinthians 12.12-14, 27

You form the body of Christ, yet each of you is a different part of it.

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

- 12 Just as the body is one and has many members,
and all the members of the body, though many, are one body,
so it is with Christ.
- 13 For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body
—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—
and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
- 14 Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.
- 27 Now you are the body of Christ
and individually members of it.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 4.18-19

*This verse may accompany the singing of the Alleluia.
If the Alleluia is not sung, the acclamation is omitted.*

*The Lord sent me to bring good news to the poor
and freedom to prisoners.*

GOSPEL

Luke 1.1-4; 4.14-21

Today this scripture has been fulfilled.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

- 1 Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account
of the events that have been fulfilled among us,
2 just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning
were eyewitnesses and servants of the word,
3 I too decided,
after investigating everything carefully from the very first,
to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus,
4 so that you may know the truth
concerning the things about which you have been instructed.
- 14 Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit,
returned to Galilee,
and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country.
- 15 He began to teach in their synagogues
and was praised by everyone.

16 When he came to Nazareth,
where he had been brought up,
Jesus went to the synagogue on the sabbath day,
as was his custom.

He stood up to read,
17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.
He unrolled the scroll
and found the place where it was written:
18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

20 And Jesus rolled up the scroll,
gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.
The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 Then Jesus began to say to them,
“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The gospel of the Lord.