

Readings at Mass for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

FIRST READING

NEHEMIAH 8.2-4A, 5-6, 8-10

A reading from the Book of Nehemiah

In those days: Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And 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.

And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it, all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord with their faces to the ground. Ezra and the Levites read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading.

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 as they heard the words of the Law.

Then he said to them, 'Go on your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, 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. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

PSALM 119(118).8, 9, 10, 15, C; R. JOHN 6.63C

R. Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.

The law of the Lord is perfect;
it revives the soul.

The decrees of the Lord are steadfast;
they give wisdom to the simple. **R.**

The precepts of the Lord are right;
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear;
it gives light to the eyes. **R.**

The fear of the Lord is pure,
abiding for ever.

The judgements of the Lord are true;
they are, all of them, just. **R.**

May the spoken words of my mouth,
the thoughts of my heart,
win favour in your sight, O Lord,
my rock and my redeemer! **R.**

SECOND READING

I CORINTHIANS 12.12-14, 27

A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: 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. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many.

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

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The Lord has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor; / to proclaim liberty to the captives. **R.**

GOSPEL

LUKE 1.1-4; 4.14-21

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it is written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, *Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.*

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

**We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**