

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

27TH JANUARY 2019

First Reading

Nehemiah 8:1–3, 5–6, 8–10

The Book of Nehemiah

⁸ 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. 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 worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁸ So they 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 he 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."

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Psalm - 19

¹ The heavens are telling the glory of God:
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

² Day to day pours forth speech:
and night to night declares knowledge.

³ There is no speech, nor are there words:
their voice is not heard;

⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth:
and their words to the end of the world.

- ⁵ In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun:
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
- ⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of
them:
and nothing is hid from its heat.
- ⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul:
the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple.
- ⁸ The precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart:
the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever:
the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.
- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold:
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.
- ¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned:
in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² But who can detect their errors?:
Clear me from hidden faults.
- ¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have
dominion over me.
Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you:
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 12:12–31a

The First Epistle of Paul The Apostle to The Corinthians

- ¹² For 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? ³¹ But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Gospel

Luke 4:14–21

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

¹⁴ Then 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, he 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 he 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 he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Sentence

Jesus read from the prophet Isaiah: ‘The Spirit of the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives.’

Luke 4.18

Prayer of the day

Life-giving God,
who sent your Son Jesus to proclaim your kingdom
and to teach with authority:
anoint us with your Spirit,
that we too may bring good news to the poor,
bind up the broken-hearted,
and proclaim liberty to the captive;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Supplementary Readings

Genesis 9.7-19

Psalms 119.165-176

Galatians 2.11-21

Prayer Response

Lord, look upon us
and let us show forth your glory.