

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O sing a new song to the Lord; sing to the Lord, all the earth. In his presence are majesty and splendour, strength and honour in his holy place.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners:
 Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
 Lord Jesus, you give yourself to heal us and bring us strength:
 Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**
 May almighty God have mercy on us....Amen.

THE GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us; For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



OPENING PRAYER

Almighty ever-living God, direct our actions according to your good pleasure, that in the name of your beloved Son, we may abound in good works. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.....

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Nehemiah 8: 2-6. 8-10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, consisting of men, women, and children old enough to understand. This was the first day of the seventh month. On the square before the Water Gate, in the presence of the men and women, and children old enough to understand, he read from the book from early morning till noon; all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law.

Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden dais erected for the purpose. In full view of all the people - since he stood higher than all the people - Ezra opened the book; and when he opened it all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people raised their hands and answered 'Amen! Amen!'; then they bowed down and, face to the ground, prostrated themselves before the Lord. And Ezra read from the Law of God, translating and giving the sense, so that the people understood what was read.

Then Nehemiah - His Excellency - and Ezra, priest and scribe (and the Levites who were instructing the people) said to all the people, 'This day is sacred to the Lord your God. Do not be mournful, do not weep.' For the people were all in tears as they listened to the words of the Law.

He then said, 'Go, eat the fat, drink the sweet wine, and send a portion to the man who has nothing prepared ready. For this day is sacred to our Lord. Do not be sad: the joy of the Lord is your stronghold.'

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 18:8-10.15

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

- The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul. **[R]**
 The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple.
- The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart. **[R]**
 The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes.
- The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever. **[R]**
 The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just.
- May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart, win favour in your sight, O Lord, my rescuer, my rock! **[R]**



SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:12-14.27 (Short form)

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Nor is the body to be identified with any one of its many parts.

Now you together are Christ's body; but each of you is a different part of it.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia! The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives. Alleluia!

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

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Seeing that many others have undertaken to draw up accounts of the events that have taken place among us, exactly as these were handed down to us by those who from the outset were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, I in my turn, after carefully going over the whole story from the beginning, have decided to write an ordered account for you, Theophilus, so that your Excellency may learn how well founded the teaching is that you have received.

Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him, returned to Galilee; and his reputation spread throughout



focus on sunday

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 23rd January 2022

Sunday of the Word of God. Catholic Schools Week

Jesus preached with power that the kingdom of God has come. This kingdom is seen, not in prestige and wealth, but in justice, peace, reconciliation and love. The gospel invites us to share in working for that kingdom.



The spirit of the Lord is upon me

the countryside. He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised him.

He came to Nazara, where he had been brought up, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day as he usually did. He stood up to read, and they handed him the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. Unrolling the scroll he found the place where it is written:

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for he has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free, to proclaim the Lord's year of favour.

He then rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the assistant and sat down. And all eyes in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to speak to them, 'This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

All bow for following two lines:

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.

Jesus' words today, at the Beginning of his ministry are like a priest's sermon at his first Mass – on a theme or themes important to the priest. He knows he is appointed and chosen by God.

Jesus, in this sermon presents his mission statement:

- He is anointed by the Spirit of the Lord.
- He cares for the poor and those who are looked down upon.
- And that the Lord is always loving, by proclaiming the 'year of the Lord's favour.

LEARNT AT HOME

We can remember also that he learnt all that at home from Mary and Joseph. He would spend his life fulfilling his mission statement.

The word must become active and fulfilled. It is not just letters on a paper, but energy in the heart, to proclaim and live out the love of God. This will be his life.

Like oil seals in the flavour of food or sealing wax on a letter meant that nobody could open it, the love of God is sealed in, and nothing you or I can do can block that again. The secret of happiness is to know that we are loved. This was sealed into the heart of Jesus and is still there in the love of his heart.

This love will be spread by his followers, and in our second reading we are invited simply to recognise our own gifts and offer these to God. In this Catholic Schools Week, we gratefully greet the teachers of our young people, and particularly our religion teachers and chaplains who are among the important ones today for handing on the faith with the support particularly of the parents and grandparents.

Donal Neary SJ (editor Sacred Heart Messenger)