



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING: *Nehemiah 8:1-2, 4a, 5-6, 3, 8-10*

A reading from the prophet Nehemiah.

When all the people were gathered outside the Temple, Ezra, the priest, brought the book of the law of Moses to read it to them. He stood on a wooden platform which the people had made for him, and he held the book up high so that everyone could see it. When he opened the book of the law, all the people stood up. Ezra praised God, and all the people raised their hands high and said, "Amen, amen!"

And he read to them from early morning until noon. All the people, the men, women, and the children who were old enough to understand, listened carefully to what Ezra read. Then he explained the law of Moses to them so that they could understand it.

[Then Nehemiah, who was the leader, said to the people,

"Today is a special day for God, a holy day. Eat and drink whatever you like. And be sure to give something to those who don't have anything to eat or drink, because this is a holy day for God. Be happy. You will be strong when you find your joy in God."]

The Word of the Lord.

[] *Reader may omit text that appears in brackets.*

RESPONSE: *Psalm 19*

Your law, O God, gives us happiness, gives us happiness and new life.

Verses:

1. Your law, O God, is good and just.
You help us all to follow your ways.
2. Your words teach us what is right.
Your word, O God, gives joy to my life.

(Repeat Response after each Verse.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

“The Spirit of God is on me. I bring Good News to the poor.”
Alleluia, alleluia. “Good News to the poor.”

GOSPEL: *Luke 4:14-21*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus had been in the desert for forty days.

Jesus then came back to Galilee
filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.
He taught in the synagogues,
and people all around heard about him
and said wonderful things about him.

When he went to the town of Nazareth
where he had grown up,
he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day as he always did.
He stood up to read,
and the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him.
Jesus opened the book and found the place where it says,

“The Spirit of God is upon me.
God has anointed me
and sent me to bring Good News to the poor,
to proclaim freedom to those who are oppressed by others,
to give sight to the blind,
and to announce a special time of blessing from God.”

Then Jesus closed the book,
gave it back to the server and sat down.
Everyone in the synagogue was looking at him.

Jesus said to them,

“What I have just read to you has come true
right here and now, while you are listening.”

The Gospel of the Lord.