



Bringing Home the Word

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)
January 26, 2025

Fulfilled in Your Hearing

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

When we hear that phrase, we might be inclined to think of prophecy. However, today's readings suggest something a bit different. True, in today's gospel, Jesus states that he is the fulfillment of the promise made by the prophet Isaiah. However, the way that passage was fulfilled by Jesus was not the way his hearers expected. The passage seems to promise a change in society, where there will be no more poor or prisoners. The people expected a political change that would overthrow Roman control. Jesus' application was

quite different. The fulfillment of that prophecy included a new and often radical way of understanding society. In other words, Jesus revealed the true meaning of the prophecy.

Such reapplication is even clearer in the first reading. Nehemiah, the Jewish leader of those who had returned from Babylonian exile, gathered all the community together, read the Law, and then reapplied it for them.

Reapplication is often necessary, because what might have been a helpful way of understanding something in our faith under some circumstances might be impractical, even inappropriate, in others. For example, to pray for an end to war is important, but to do nothing to work for peace changes how we understand prayer. Circumstances often change as we go through life. Reapplication of our faith acknowledges this and searches for ways that faith can continue to address those changing circumstances. Faithful reapplication always keeps our religious tradition alive and meaningful. †

Sunday Readings

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Ezra read clearly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read.

**1 Corinthians 12:12-30 or
1 Corinthians 12:12-14, 27**

As a body is one though it has many parts, and all the parts of the body, though many, are one body, so also Christ.

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

***Jesus is the fulfillment
of the promise made by
the prophet Isaiah.***

A Word from Pope Francis

I would like to make a suggestion. On the Sundays of this liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke, the gospel of mercy, is proclaimed. Why not also read it personally, all of it, one small passage each day? A short passage. Let us familiarize ourselves with the gospel. It will bring us the newness and joy of God!

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REFLECTION QUESTIONS



- How do I bring my faith to everyday situations?
- On what occasions might I forget to act like a disciple of Jesus?

Living as a Christian in Community

Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

When parents in the neighborhood do not work together to instill in their children a sense of love and respect for others, hatred of others prevails. When teachers do not work together to create a positive learning environment, children and youth become indifferent to the search for knowledge and truth. When law-enforcement officers do not work together to uphold the law, people in the community begin to administer their own brand of justice. When healthcare professionals do not work together to care for the sick and poor, people's lives are put at risk. When members of the business community do not work together to create networks of support, the quality of life diminishes. When Christian religious leaders do not work together to give a common witness



to the Gospel of Jesus, people begin to lose faith and hope in God.

All who are baptized receive the Spirit of God's love and belong to the one body of Christ. We have been given the Spirit of God's love to work together to build a community of love. The mission of the

Christian community is to use its resources to eradicate the evil of racism in the world, eliminate all forms of violence, and give testimony to the gospel of peace and nonviolence. Being a member of the body of Christ is not a luxury but a responsibility to be embraced and lived. When Christians work together in accordance with the Spirit of God's love, life becomes more peaceful, fruitful, and loving for all people.

Ponder: How do I live the responsibility of being a follower of Christ?

Prayer: Lord, you created all people equal. Open my eyes to recognize the dignity of all people and my heart to love unconditionally.

Practice: Today, I will reflect on the meaning of my baptism. †

Wisdom from Catholic UPDATE

From "Polarization: Stop Labeling—Start Listening" by Rev. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR

When we find ourselves polarized, mired deep in our own opinions and judgments, no matter how objectively "right" we may be, we have chosen the path of refusing to listen. When we refuse to listen compassionately and generously, not only to the arguments and the questions but also to the deeper truth people may reveal when they feel heard, we miss the opportunity to live more fully, to flourish, and to grow into the people we were created to be.... If we indulge in a passionate response without permitting ourselves the time to listen, we can only hope to understand part of the truth—sometimes a very small part indeed—and we deprive ourselves, and the community, of the fullness waiting to be revealed.

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PRAYER

Ever-present God, give us the grace to remember your love and care for us when we are faced with difficulties and uncertainty. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

January 27—February 1

Monday, Weekday:

Heb 9:15, 24–28 / Mk 3:22–30

Tuesday, St. Thomas Aquinas:

Heb 10:1–10 / Mk 3:31–35

Wednesday, Weekday:

Heb 10:11–18 / Mk 4:1–20

Thursday, Weekday:


Heb 10:19–25 / Mk 4:21–25

Friday, St. John Bosco:

Heb 10:32–39 / Mk 4:26–34

Saturday, Weekday:

Heb 11:1–2, 8–19 / Mk 4:35–41

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