

**SUNDAY, Jan. 23, 2022**  
**The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Readings:** 1) Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 2) 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 3) Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

**FOCUS:** The law of the Lord delights the human heart and guides the steps of our lives.

Today's Gospel opens with the words and intentions of Luke the Evangelist. He has decided to write a Gospel – *a narrative of the events* regarding Jesus Christ that will draw from the memories of those who witnessed his life, death, and resurrection, and who have handed on his teachings to future generations. We cling to that Gospel message, which reminds us of God's mercy and challenges us to live in Christ.

**LITURGY OF THE WORD**

Nehemiah, Ezra, and others instruct the people to rejoice and not be sad, for their God has made the day holy. Saint Paul instructs the Corinthians, using the image of the body to describe the Church and explaining that each person has a role in it. In the Gospel, Jesus reads from the book of the prophet Isaiah in the synagogue in Nazareth and proclaims, *Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.*

**UNIVERSAL PRAYER**

PRIEST: God's love and mercy exceed the hopes of the human heart. With confidence, we bring our prayers before the Lord.

- 1) For Church leaders, may the Spirit continue to guide and inspire them and keep them faithful to Christ and his Gospel, let us pray to the Lord.
- 2) For civic leaders, may the Lord bless them with right knowledge and understanding as they carry out their duties, let us pray to the Lord.
- 3) For the sick, may God's Holy Spirit restore them to the fullness of life and health and liberate them from all afflictions, let us pray to the Lord.
- 4) For all gathered here, may the Lord help us grow in our understanding of his merciful love for us and so be transformed, let us pray to the Lord.
- 5) For our beloved dead, may they receive the reward of a life well spent and come to share in the fullness of Christ's glory, let us pray to the Lord.
- 6) (Special petition/s)

PRIEST: Hear our prayers, O merciful God, and answer them in accordance with your divine providence. Through Christ our Lord.