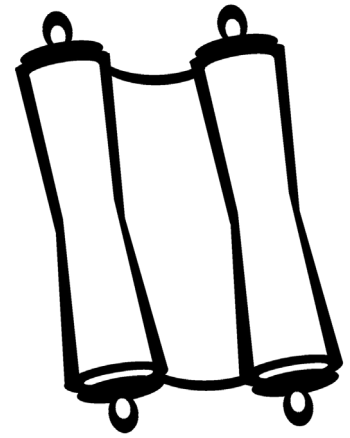


Epiphany 3

January 26, 2025

Third Sunday after the Epiphany (Year C)

Our human response to God and his Word can range from joy and praise to anger and lashing out at those who proclaim God's message. At times we also struggle with our place in the church compared to others. Jesus was very clear; he came for those who were repentant and hungry for mercy — not those who think they have it all figured out already. May we have attentive ears to hear and obey God's Word.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10 Ezra Reads the Law to the Assembly

After the exile, the Jews returned to Jerusalem and completed the rebuilding of the walls around the city. On the "Feast of the Trumpets" day Ezra, the scribe and priest, taught from the Book of the Law of Moses and the people of Jerusalem responded with tears of joy and shouts of praise. The people were touched by God's Word and they renewed their devotion to the Lord.

Psalm 19:(1-6) 7-14

Declare Me Innocent

The psalmist proclaimed the wonders of the Lord who gave the law to the people to instruct them and order their lives. This law is perfect; blessed are those who listen to the Word of God and obey. God's Word is more desirable than gold.

Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a We Were All Baptized into One Body

Paul used the analogy of the human body to describe the Church of Christ. It is composed of many parts and each part has its particular place and function, as each part/person is vital to the whole. Even the seemingly weakest parts of the body are indispensable to the whole body. In Christ we serve and together we suffer.

Gospel Lesson: Luke 4:16-30

The Spirit of the Lord is Upon Me

While in the synagogue in his hometown, Jesus stood up front and read from the scroll of Isaiah. The passage he read indicated the nature of his calling: anointed to bring good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind, and freedom to the oppressed. The congregation, thrilled at first, quickly turned on him in anger.

Suggestions for the Day:

- Liturgical Color: Green
- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise in Ordinary Time.
- The reading of God's Word in worship is a long standing practice for those gather together in the faith community. Today's readings highlight that practice that perhaps we take for granted. It's important for the reader to read in such a way that hearers can hear. Going too fast makes it hard to listen. Speaking too softly also makes it hard to absorb what is being read. A simple training session for lectors is never a bad idea as it greatly helps the congregation hear the important message that is being read.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Salt and Light are Found in Me	---	---	---	---	---	web
Lord Speak to Us, That We May Speak	403	---	---	676	267	267
Hail to the Lord's Anointed	87	---	398	311	---	---
Word of God Come Down on Earth	---	716	545	510	---	---
Have Thine Own Way Lord	---	---	---	---	244	244
He Leadeth Me	501	---	---	---	232	232
O God of Light	237	---	836	507	---	---
O God, My Faithful God	504	---	696	806	238	238
The Church's One Foundation	369	---	644	654	88	88
O Lord, We Praise You	215	---	617	499	86	86

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Here I Am to Worship
(CCLI # 3266032)
Ancient Words
(CCLI # 2986399)
Thy Word
(CCLI # 14301)
Word of God Speak
(CCLI # 3912788)
Marching in the Light of God
(CCLI # 320947)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.