

focus on sunday

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 26th January 2025

Sunday of the Word of God (Catholic Schools Week begins)

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**



In today's Gospel, Luke recalls the very first public appearance of Jesus. He understands this sermon to be a summary of Jesus' whole teaching. Jesus begins by affirming his credentials, namely that what he says and does comes from the Spirit of

God who resides in him. He has come "to bring the Good News to the poor," to reach out to those who are oppressed, to the blind (who were marginalised in society because they were considered to be sinners, their blindness being a punishment by God), and captives (unjustly excluded from society) and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour, understood to be a reference to the Jubilee year in the Old Testament, when the inequality that had inevitably arisen over time amongst the people of God was reversed, by forgiving debts, freeing slaves and returning land that had been sold to its original owners. And what was the Good News Jesus brought? "How blessed are you who are poor, yours is the Kingdom of God." (Luke 6) Those who were left to live their lives in poverty, (while surrounded by people of wealth), those who were left hungry, and those who wept (because they were oppressed), will all find themselves welcome, and their needs met, in the Kingdom of God that was coming. Good News to the poor is Challenging News to everyone else. To welcome the poor and marginalised in our own communities and in our world, to offer them support and friendship, and to help build a society that seeks to address their plight, is to continue the mission that Jesus had begun.

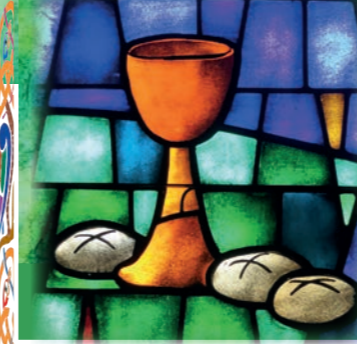
Fr. Peter McVerry

Jesus' Story

Fr. Liam Hickey



Jesus is asked to read a story from the Sacred Scroll Book. He stood up in front of everyone. He was handed the holy scroll. He opened it and read God's Story. Then He sat down. Everyone watched him. He said that the story means that God loves every person, boy and girl, religious and non religious people. He said 'I have come to bring God's blessings and healing for everyone.'



LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Pray brothers and sisters.....
May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray, and in sanctifying them grant that they may profit us for salvation. Through Christ our Lord.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.

SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

AFTER THE CONSECRATION

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

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God,
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Look toward the Lord and be radiant; let your faces not be abashed.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that, receiving the grace by which you bring us to new life, we may always glory in your gift. Through Christ our Lord.

CONCLUDING RITE

The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.
May the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever. Amen.
Go in peace.
Thanks be to God.



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 Ps18:8-10.15

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

1. The law of the Lord is perfect, it revives the soul.
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted, it gives wisdom to the simple. [R]

2. The precepts of the Lord are right, they gladden the heart.
The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes. [R]

3. The fear of the Lord is holy, abiding for ever.
The decrees of the Lord are truth and all of them just. [R]

4. 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

(Shorter form only, 12:12-14.27)
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 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.**

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

All bow for following three lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen

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.

GREETING

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
The Lord be with you.
And with your spirit.



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