

GOSPEL LESSON—Luke 4:16-30

Jesus, the native Son, returned to His Synagogue. He read a well-known section of the prophet Isaiah, a place that described the special task of the promised Messiah. Then He gave them the connection between that Scripture and Himself. It is interesting that while Jeremiah complained about the rejection of the people, Jesus seems to have expected it. He had a ready and honest answer to their rejection of the Gospel and of Him. God is not sidetracked from His work of bringing salvation to the world. He is not sidetracked by our sin or our rejection. He continues to call the saved from every tribe and every nation to join us in the gift of faith He established in His Son.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

⑤ O God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, You gather all people who, among the nations and people of the Earth, seek those to worship You in spirit and truth. We, who are gathered here for Your worship and praise, appeal to You that we may be so inwardly moved in spirit and so filled with Your Word and truth that You would find acceptable our imperfect sacrifices of thanksgiving, praise, and prayer.

Bestow on us a sure faith in Your power and a perfect trust in Your Love. Let us live out our short span of years in this world by applying our hearts to Your wisdom. Give us brotherly love, peacefulness, and charity, so that we show forth Your grace, goodness and glory. Defend us so that we are not overcome by evil; inspire us to overcome all evil with good. Preserve us from all hazards to body or soul and against all temptations and trial, O Father, so that we may live to serve You in all godliness and humility.

Graciously help us to redeem the time You give us, using our days wisely toward the building of faith in our hearts and the hearts of others. Stir up in us such gifts as You would bestow, that these may be used to the spiritual enrichment of our lives. Renew us in the spirit of our minds; turn our footsteps to the pathways of eternal life; cleanse us of all sin; heal us of every disease; comfort all who are afflicted; guard our loved ones wherever they may be; shield us from the powers of wickedness; give us each day our daily bread; and make us content in whatever condition You have appointed to us. As we have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so let us walk in Him, rooted and built up in faith and abounding in all good works to the benefit of ourselves and others.

Hear us as we bring to You our private petitions. (**Time of silent prayer.**)

All these things we pray in the name of Him Who loved the church and gave Himself for us, even Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

© Amen.

EPIPHANY THREE

Chant Tone



Introit

You will arise and have pity — on Zion;*
it is the time to favor her; the
appointed | time has come.

Let this be recorded for a genera | tion
to come,*

so that a people yet to be created
may | praise the Lord:

That he looked down from His | holy
height;*
from Heaven the Lord looked | at
the Earth.

To hear the groans of the | prisoners,*
to set free those who were | doomed
to die.

That they may declare in Zion the
name | of the Lord,*
and in Jerusa | lem His praise.
When peoples gather to — gether,*
and kingdoms, to wors | hip the Lord.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy — Spirit;
as it was in the be — ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. — Amen.

You will arise and have pity — on Zion;*
it is the time to favor her; the
appointed | time has come.

(Antiphon, Psalm 102:13;
Psalm 102:18-22)

Collect of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

Gradual

Praise the Lord, all — nations!*

Extol Him, all — peoples!

For great is His | Love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the Lord endures for — ever.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory | due His name;*

bring an offering and come in | to His courts!

(Psalm 117:1-2a; 96:8)

ENTRANCE PRAYER: O Lord, steadfast Love is Yours, forever. You have shown us Your Love every day of our lives. We have seen it in the daily rising of the sun and in the moon and the stars, which keep in their appointed courses. Your Love drops down on us in the snow and in the rain. In Love Your mighty power has brought us the salvation of our souls in Your Son Jesus Christ. For all these mercies, accept our heartfelt thanks. Give us strength to overcome the weakness of our flesh, courage to stand up for what is right in Your sight and repentance that we will believe in the Gospel. All of this we ask in the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen (So be it, Lord.)

JESUS WAS IN GALILEE AND THE NEWS ABOUT HIM SPREAD. When Jesus presented Himself as the fulfillment of the Scripture, the reaction was the same as when we attempt to proclaim Jesus as the Messiah. Some will believe because of their faith, some will say they believe because it is the thing to do, and some will never believe because they cannot imagine anything outside of themselves. It is a miracle that any of us are able to believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and have that belief credited to us as righteousness. It is a miracle of the work of the Holy Spirit that He can change our hearts from stone and recreate us by the infusion of faith that we believe.

THEME OF THE DAY:

Everything Is Fulfilled In Jesus

INTROIT—(Antiphon: Psalm 102:13;) Psalm 102:18-22

Psalm 102 is a new addition to our worship cycle. The editors of our latest three year cycle of readings, took the opportunity to include a number of new and unique lessons to our cycle, while seeking to maintain many of the historic lessons. This Psalm was most likely written by one of the Prophets during the captivity of the nation. Our section for today looks forward to the time of the return when pure worship will be returned to Zion. For us it speaks the expectation that sinners will turn to God.

COLLECT

This prayer is new as of our 2006 revision. This new prayer reflects the words of the Introit. God is merciful and constantly defends us. While our greatest, "infirmity" is sin, we are always allowed to ask to be healed from all the sicknesses of our body. In this prayer we ask that God would touch us to heal our health related infirmities and that He would always, "defend" us in this world.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON—Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Our new reading schedule has the first (and only) reading from the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah was governor of Judah and wrote this book in diary form during the years 445 and 430 BC. This book is the last of the Jewish history (with 400 years of quiet until the writing of the book of Matthew in the year AD 33.) This section is a curious choice because it actually records events done by Ezra, which are not recorded in the book of Ezra (another book we have never used in worship.) The connection to the day is in that Ezra was reading and explaining what he read from one of the first five books of the Bible on a Holy Day. (In our Gospel Lesson Jesus read and explained Isaiah.)

GRADUAL—Psalm 117:1-2a, 96:8

Psalm 117 is a song of praise for all God has done for us. Psalm 96 was sung as the Ark was moved into Jerusalem.

EPISTLE LESSON—1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

In last week's lesson we heard that every Christian is given at least one spiritual gift to use for the advantage of furthering the Gospel. Paul reminded the Corinthians that the focus of the gifts is not on the differences, but rather on the unity that comes in Baptism. Sin loves to exploit the differences. We are one body in Christ through Baptism. We are many members who make up the Body into which Christ has brought us. All the diverse gifts are united under Baptism. In the church then there is a multiplicity of talent and skill which are all used by God to bring us together as one Body for the purpose of furthering the Gospel ministry to the world.