

**SCRIPTURE QUOTE
TO MEMORISE:**

The words,
I have spoken
to you are
spirit and
they are life.

(John 6: 63)

How many of us can resonate with that? For a different reason, prompted by a sense of responsibility, the church leadership made the difficult and painful decision to suspend public Masses during the height of the pandemic. We miss the proclamation of the Word, not to even imagine the acute void of not being able to receive Holy Communion. Something not to be taken for granted ever again.

Revere the Word of God – it is Jesus speaking to us, as he spoke to the Jews in the synagogue in Nazareth. St Augustine intuited that our heart is restless until it finds God and rests in him. As we rest in His Word, we respond as the Psalmist does, 'Your Word, Lord, is Spirit and Truth.'

What then is the Word telling us? These few Sundays' readings speak metaphorically of the body of Christ. St Paul's letter to the Corinthians tells us that we made up the many parts of the body of Christ to make the whole. When one part is deficient, other parts of the body must make up to strengthen it. St Paul says each one has different gifting. This is what brings us freedom to exercise our gift(s) prudently as individuals and blesses the collective body of Christ.

Why does St Luke recollect events in the first part of the reading? So that we can better understand the Living Word, Jesus Christ. He builds up the story of Jesus, not only for the people of his time but for us too. **Let us be who the Word is to us, alive and active, and living out the Spirit.** In revering the Word, may we 'find the lost, heal those broken in spirit, feed the hungry, release the oppressed, rebuild the nations, bring peace to all people, and radiate the Light of Christ, every day, in every way, in all that we do and in all that we say.' (Howard Thurman, adapted) ❖

**SCRIPTURE
of the DAY**

Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10;

Ps. 18: 8-10, 15;

1 Corinthians 12: 12-30
(or 12-14, 27);

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

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NEW WAY OF BEING CHURCH

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday of the Word of God

SALT OF THE EARTH AND LIGHT OF THE WORLD: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION AND MISSION

MONTHLY THEME:

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Revere The Word Of God

In the first reading today (Nehemiah 8), we read of the returnees from exile all assembled, 'the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand,' to listen to the Word of God. When Ezra proclaimed the Word to them, 'they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the Lord.' When Nehemiah, Ezra and the Levite priests instructed them, the people wept.

