

3. **Word**

Christ continues to speak
through his word
and in Christ we listen & respond.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Listen to Scripture

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit,
returned to Galilee,
and a report about him spread through all
the surrounding country.

He began to teach in their synagogues
and was praised by everyone.

When he came to Nazareth,
where he had been brought up,
he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day,
as was his custom.

He stood up to read,
and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him.

He unrolled the scroll
and found the place where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

And he rolled up the scroll,
gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.
The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

Then he began to say to them,
“Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Luke 4: 14–21

Our Experience

- How is this passage from scripture Good News today?
- How do I experience Christ present in the proclamation of the word?

Read & Reflect

GENERAL INSTRUCTION OF THE ROMAN MISSAL

The Liturgy of the Word

29. When the Sacred Scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel...

Silence

56. The Liturgy of the Word is to be celebrated in such a way as to favour meditation, and so any kind of haste such as hinders recollection is clearly to be avoided. In the course of it, brief periods of silence are also appropriate, accommodated to the assembled congregation; by means of these, under the action of the Holy Spirit, the Word of God may be grasped by the heart and a response through prayer may be prepared. It may be appropriate to observe such periods of silence, for example, before the Liturgy of the Word itself begins, after the First and Second Reading, and lastly at the conclusion of the Homily.

CELEBRATING THE MASS

153 The readings from Sacred Scripture and the chants between the readings form the main part of the Liturgy of the Word. The Homily, Profession of Faith, and Prayer of the Faithful expand and complete this part of the Mass. For in the readings God speaks with his people, opening up to them the mystery of redemption and salvation, and nourishing their spirit; Christ himself is present in the midst of the faithful through his word. The Homily is an integral part of the liturgy to assist the assembly to hear the voice of the Lord in his word. By their silent listening and pondering, and by their singing and acclamation, the people make God's word their own and they also affirm their acceptance of it by the Profession of Faith. Finally, having been nourished by this word, the assembly makes petition in the Prayer of the Faithful, praying for the needs of the entire Church and for the salvation of the whole world.

155 The proper celebration of the Liturgy of the Word involves many elements and several ministers, but care is necessary so that the many human words and elements do not obscure the divine word itself.

For Discussion

- What qualities should be looked for in one who proclaims the word?
- What qualities should be looked for in one who listens to the word?
- In what ways does our community respond to the word proclaimed?

Act

- Prepare for Sunday's Mass by reading the gospel and other readings
- On the days after Sunday return to the Gospel or other readings, continuing to reflect on them.
- You may wish to continue this practice over the coming weeks.

Prayer

When many of his disciples heard Jesus' teaching,
they said, "This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?"

But Jesus, being aware that his disciples
were complaining about it,
said to them, "Does this offend you?

Then what if you were to see the Son of Man
ascending to where he was before?

It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless.
The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.
But among you there are some who do not believe."

For Jesus knew from the first
who were the ones that did not believe,
and who was the one that would betray him.
And he said, "For this reason I have told you
that no one can come to me
unless it is granted by the Father."

Because of this many of his disciples turned back
and no longer went about with him.

So Jesus asked the twelve,
"Do you also wish to go away?"

Simon Peter answered him,
"Lord, to whom can we go?
You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe
and know that you are the Holy One of God."

John 6: 60–69

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