



CONSOLATA SHRINE
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
"SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD"
26th JANUARY 2025



FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:2-6.8-10

They read from the book, from the law of God, and they gave the sense.

A reading from the Book of Nehemiah.

In those days: Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventy month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law. And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden pulpit which they had made for the purpose. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people; and when he opened it all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. And Ezra and the Levites read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him for whom nothing is prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength." ***The word of the Lord***

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19:8-10.15 (R. Jn 6:63c)

R: Your words, O Lord, are Spirit and life.

The law of the LORD is perfect; it revived the soul.

The decrees of the LORD are steadfast; they give wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the LORD are right; they gladden the heart.

The command of the LORD is clear; it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the LORD is pure, abiding forever.

The judgments of the LORD are true; they are, all of them, just.

May the spoken words of my mouth, the thoughts of my heart,
Win favour in your sight, O LORD,
my rock and my redeemer!

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

You are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brethren: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews of Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit. For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single organ, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those parts of the body which we think less honourable we invest with the greater honour, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so adjusted the body, giving the greater honour to the inferior part, that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?
The word of the Lord.



Alleluia

The Lord has sent me to preach good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives.



Alleluia

Gospel

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

“Today this Scripture has been fulfilled.”

The beginning of the holy Gospel according to Luke

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things which have been accomplished among us, just as they were delivered to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the truth concerning the things of which you have been informed. At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and a report concerning him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue as was his custom, on the Sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ***The Gospel of the Lord.***

Reflection: New Day Dawns By Scott Hahn, Ph.D

The meaning of today's Liturgy is subtle and many-layered. We need background to understand what's happening in today's First Reading. Babylon having been defeated, King Cyrus of Persia decreed that the exiled Jews could return home to Jerusalem. They rebuilt their ruined temple and under Nehemiah finished rebuilding the city walls. The stage was set for the renewal of the covenant and the re-establishment of the Law of Moses as the people's rule of life. That's what's going on in today's First Reading, as Ezra reads and interprets the Law and the people respond with a great "Amen!" Israel, as we sing in today's Psalm, is rededicating itself to God and His Law. The scene seems like the Isaiah prophecy that Jesus reads from in today's Gospel. Read all of Isaiah 61. The "glad tidings" Isaiah brings include these promises: the liberation of prisoners; the rebuilding of

Jerusalem, or Zion; the restoration of Israel as a kingdom of priests and the forging of an everlasting covenant. It sounds a lot like the First Reading. Jesus, in turn, declares that Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in Him. The Gospel scene, too, recalls the First Reading. Like Ezra, Jesus stands before the people, is handed a scroll, unrolls it, then reads and interprets it. We witness in today's Liturgy the creation of a new people of God. Ezra started reading at dawn of the first day of the Jewish new year. Jesus too proclaims a "sabbath," a great year of Jubilee, a deliverance from slavery to sin, a release from the debts we owe to God. The people greeted Ezra "as one man." And, as today's Epistle teaches, in the Spirit the new people of God - the Church - is made "one body" with Him.

Announcement

1. Today, the Divine Mercy Group is recruiting new members at the tent outside the church. All are welcome.
2. Next Sunday 2nd February 2025, there will be blessing of our tithe, our Families and our work. Please come prepared.
 - ❖ The Rosary will be prayed in front of the Blessed Sacrament after the 1 pm Mass.
 - ❖ The Children's Sunday activities will resume next Sunday 2nd February 2025 with the children's Mass at 9:00 am. There will be no Sunday Service on that day.
3. Registration for Catechism classes (Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation) for the boarders is ongoing at the catechist's office.
4. Consolata Charismatic Prayer Group has organized Life in the Spirit Seminar every Sunday at 2 pm in the Parish Hall. All are welcome.
5. St. Joseph Allamano Small Christian Community will animate Rosary next Saturday 1st February after 5:00 pm Mass.
6. Consolata School Daycare registration is ongoing for children aged 18 months to 3 years. For more information visit the School office during the week.
7. Bible Diaries for 2025 with daily reflections are available at the Bookshop. Take a copy for yourself or as a gift to your friends.
8. The Episcopal Ordination of Monsignor Jackson Murugara Bishop-elect Coadjutor of the Catholic Diocese of Meru will be on 19th March on the solemnity of St Joseph. All are welcome to attend.
9. Consolata Dispensary at St Joseph Deep Sea now offers Ultrasound Services on Saturdays from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. For more information or to book an appointment kindly visit the dispensary.

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