

Church of the Divine Love

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 26, 2025 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prayer for the New Year – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #135 –

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10**

Psalm 19

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Luke 4:14-21**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn –

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer C	page 369
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 367
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer For the Parish	page 817
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn –	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday January 26, 2025

Nehemiah 8: 1-3,5-6,8-10; Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31; Luke 4: 14-21.

Beloved in Christ, today we gather to delve into a transformative moment in the ministry of Jesus—His reading from the scroll of Isaiah in the synagogue of Nazareth. As we explore **Luke 4:14-21**, let us open our hearts and minds to the weightiness of His message and the profound implications it has for our lives and our communities

“I feel like I live with one foot in the past and one foot in the future,” he said. That’s how a friend of mine once described his life. He went on to tell me about events of the past, lost opportunities, wounds, and regrets. There was an emptiness about him. He sounded trapped and imprisoned by his own history, things done and left undone. After that he talked about the uncertainty of his future and what might or might not be. He was scared. There were a lot of unknowns in his life. Even as he listed his hopes for what might happen and the way he wanted his life to be, he had to admit these were things he could neither control nor predict.

With one foot in the past and one in the future we straddle and completely miss the present. We become captive to what was, oppressed by what might be, and blind to what is. Our life is impoverished, small, and empty. We are absent to God, others, and even ourselves. We are unavailable to those we love, to the needs of the world, and to the fullness of life that God offers. That is no way to live. That is not the way Jesus lives and it is not the life to which he calls us. The life Jesus offers us is a life of freedom. I'm not talking about autonomy, the ability to choose and do what we want, a life determined by individual preferences. I'm speaking of the freedom to be and become fully alive, the freedom to be and become fully human, the freedom to be and become fully Christlike. That can only happen here and now, in the present moment.

Jesus neither reminisces about the past nor forecasts the future. He comes to his people in the very circumstances of their lives. That's what he did that day in Nazareth and it's what he does for each one of us. "Filled with the power of the spirit" and "anointed to bring good news to the poor," he comes "to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaiming the year of the Lord's favor" (**Lk. 4:14, 18-20**). This is about my friend, about you, and about me. We are the poor, the captive, the blind, the oppressed, and the ones seeking the Lord's favor. How we understand that about ourselves depends on our own lives and experiences.

Poverty might be about money or material needs such as food, clothing, or housing. It might also be poverty of love, hope, or meaning. Regardless, our world is empty. The captive might be a prisoner, an addicted person, a cancer patient, or one overcome by anger and resentment. Regardless, our world is small and closing in. Blindness is not only physical but can also be emotional or spiritual. Regardless, our world is dark. Oppression happens in hundreds of ways from physical or emotional violence, to racism, to fear, to profound sorrow. Regardless, our world is not safe.

In the midst of these circumstances, when life gets really difficult, it is easy and tempting to run away, to get stuck in the past, or fixate on the future. Yet, Jesus comes to us today, here, now. He is not lost in our past or hidden in an unknown future. The only place we can meet Jesus is today, in this present moment, in whatever the circumstances of our life might be. "Today" is the first word of Jesus' public teaching. It's not about what happened yesterday or what might happen tomorrow. It is about today. "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing, "Today he brings good news to the poor. Today he proclaims release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind. Today he lets the oppressed go free. Today he proclaims the year of the Lord's favor.

Here's the irony. We too often miss today fretting over yesterday and worrying about tomorrow and yet the presence of Christ today somehow heals our past and prepares us for the future. Good news, release, sight, freedom, the Lord's favor. All these are made real and present today, in the current context and circumstances of our lives. This is the heart of the Gospel, a message of hope and restoration. In a world aching under social injustice, poverty, and brokenness, we are reminded that Jesus came to reverse these realities. His mission was not merely spiritual but profoundly social. As His followers, we are called to continue this mission. Are we advocating for the voiceless? Are we working towards justice and compassion for all?

Those are not just things Jesus does, they are the manifestation of God's presence, life, and love with and in God's people. They are manifestations of the freedom Christ brings. They are fulfilled, brought to fullness, in our hearing. To the extent we are unable to hear Jesus' words we are either stuck in the past or living in a future we do not yet have. Hearing is about more than sound. It is about our presence, openness, and receptivity. We must be willing to take into ourselves the reality and truth of what is spoken. We must also be willing to take into ourselves the life and presence of the one who is speaking. Jesus is not just speaking words. He is speaking new life. In his speaking and our hearing his life and our life become one life and it is happening today.

As we reflect on **Luke 4:14-21**, may we not overlook the urgency and importance of this call. Jesus' mission is our mission; His anointing is our anointing. Today, let us recommit ourselves to be agents of good news, liberty, healing, and justice in our world. Let us pray for the courage to live out this calling, to be filled with the Spirit, and to proclaim boldly the year of the Lord's favor in our lives and in the lives of those around us. **Amen.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

3 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II PARISH ANNUAL METING Nominations to the Vestry Dana Kenn – Special one year term to remain on the Vestry Jess Berbeck – 2 nd two year term as Senior Warden
MONDAY	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
4 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Jess Berbeck	Dana Kenn
Coffee Hour	Annual Meeting	Nolans

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Jane Alva Quallo	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Lynette
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo

Michelle & Baby

Joseph

Annie

Jerry & Family

Shannon & Family

Donna A.

Christopher

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email

Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

Prayer for the New Year:

O God, our Creator, you have divided our life into days and seasons, and called us to acknowledge your providence year after year. Accept our praise and thanksgiving for this past year and hear our prayers for the new year. Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, Jesus. Grant that we who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory. Pardon our transgressions of the past and guide us by your Holy Spirit that we may turn our feet into your paths, serve you in peace, and live in your

presence. All this we ask in the holy name of your Son,
Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
And third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions
and glory, now and for ever. Amen

