



January 23, 2022

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 | 1 Cor 12:12-30 or 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27 | Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

Do you ever find yourself feeling like you are at the cusp of something remarkable? Like you are witnessing an incredible, historic, athletic, or aeronautical feat? I wonder if that's what it was like for the followers of Jesus when he began his public ministry: "News of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all." In today's Gospel, Jesus reads the words of the prophet Isaiah that are effectively a "job description" of his mission: glad tidings to the poor, liberty of captives, sight to the blind, freedom for the oppressed. What Isaiah prophesied, Jesus claims to fulfill. He thus inaugurates his public ministry with a claim that is straightforward, bold, true, and of great consequence. Today, by virtue of our baptism, we are part of the body of Christ and share in that mission. Whatever our backgrounds, abilities, or talents, we each have something to contribute to building up one another and the Church. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, we, too, can be bold in our own proclamation of Jesus Christ as Lord.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

We've heard the phrase "Don't sell yourself short." Social media aside, many of us tend to focus on our shortcomings: We may wish we could run faster, be better at our jobs, have a cleaner home, in general, "get it together!" Truth is, we're all works in progress. That's what I love about Paul's Letter to the Corinthians. He reminds us that each one of us – whatever our strengths or weaknesses – is part of the body of Christ. God loves us with our imperfections, not in spite of them. As such, each of us has indispensable value and much to contribute to the mission of the Church. As we move into the week ahead, today's readings invite us to place ourselves at the service of the Church and one another. Beyond that, we can invite others to join us by recognizing that God values the talents – and foibles – that each of us brings to his service.

PRAY Yesterday on the liturgical calendar was the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. As members of the body of Christ, let us join our voices with the universal Church and pray a Pro-Life Rosary each night this week. The USCCB Prayers and Devotions page is a good resource.