

# The Third Sunday of Epiphany 26th January 2025

## Collect

God of all mercy,  
your Son proclaimed good news to the poor,  
release to the captives,  
and freedom to the oppressed:  
anoint us with your Holy Spirit and set all your  
people free to praise you in Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## First Reading (Nehemiah 8.1-3, 5-6, 8-10)

A reading from the book of Nehemiah.  
All the people gathered together into the square  
before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to  
bring the book of the law of Moses, which the  
LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest  
Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both  
men and women and all who could hear with  
understanding. This was on the first day of the  
seventh month. 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 opened the book in the sight of  
all the people, for he was standing above all the  
people; and when he opened it, all the people  
stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great  
God and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,'  
lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads  
and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the  
ground. So they read from the book, from the law  
of God, with interpretation. 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 of  
them to those 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.'

## Psalm (Psalm 19)



## Response:

**The precepts of the Lord, gladden the heart.**

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.

The rule of the Lord is to be trusted,  
it gives wisdom to the simple. **R**

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.

The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes. **R**

The fear of the Lord is holy,  
abiding for ever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just. **R**

## Second Reading (1 Corinthians 12.12-31a)

A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the  
Corinthians.

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 in the one Spirit  
we were all baptized into one body - Jews or  
Greeks, slaves or free - and we were all made to  
drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not  
consist of one member but of many. If the foot  
would 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 would 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  
the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing,  
where would the sense of smell be? But as it is,  
God arranged the members in the body, each one  
of them, as he chose. If all were a single member,  
where would the body be? As it is, there are many  
members, 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 members of the body that seem to be weaker  
are indispensable, and those members of the body  
that we think less honourable we clothe with  
greater honour, and our less respectable members  
are treated with greater respect; whereas our  
more respectable members do not need this. But  
God has so arranged the body, giving the greater

honour to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together with it. 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 deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership 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 in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

### **Gospel Reading (Luke 4.14-21)**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke. 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.'

### **Post Communion**

Almighty Father,  
whose Son our Saviour Jesus Christ is the light of the world: may your people, illumined by your word and sacraments shine with the radiance of his glory, that he may be known, worshipped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **For your prayers**

**In our Prayers:** Hugh, Josh, Diane Rankin, Lloyd Whitney, Diane, Trevor, Vera, Chris Hall, Tommy Lacken, Sue, Kathy, Maria Amparo Garcia, Maria, Lenny Shaw, Pat, Vanessa, Eamon Irvine, HM King Charles, Steve, Tracey Sanderson, Fr Michael Shier,

Michelle Ferguson, Maria Vaccaro, Robert Russell, Carol Martin, Nancy Campling, Philomena Sorrenti, Martin Fletcher, Jan Bone, Francis Burrows. Fr Peter Rabin, Lynn Williamson, Ms Rebecca Quansah, Dr Alfred Kwasi Kwarteng, Fr Peter Bernhard, Susan Bloom.

**Among the departed:** Calum Naylor, David Brooks.

**Anniversaries of Death:** William George Clarke, Annie Whitehead, Caroline Wainwright, Mary Johnson, Jack Holt, Henry Howell (Pr), Lawrence Edgar Snow, James Jolly, Henry Charles Bennett, Amy Elenore Crowley

**In the parish:** We pray for Helmet Row and LSO St Luke's

**In the wider world:** We Pray for all those with influence and authority in Syria to bring an end to the civil war, a just peace, reconciliation and rebuilding.

### **Notices**

#### **In Church this week**

**Wednesday Open Church 10am-1pm**  
**12.30pm Mass**

#### **Next Sunday Candlemass**

**10.30am Sung Mass**  
**with blessing of candles.**

### **Helpers needed after Mass!**

Can you help out after Sunday Mass? There's plenty to do clearing up and putting things away once refreshments are finished. If you can please speak to Elaine or Father David.

### **Time to Talk:**

What is a good life? What is a good death?

Thursday 30th January 5pm

A conversation about questions we all must face. With refreshments, at St Luke's Community Centre, Central Street.

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