

First Reading: Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10
Response: “*Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life*” (Jn.6:63)
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 18:8-10,15
Second Reading: I Corinthians 12:12-30
Gospel: Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Our evangelist for this year is Luke. He speaks as a witness to the Son of God. He shares his and others' experiences of the Risen Lord. His Gospel is a proclamation to all about Jesus Christ the fulfilment of the Law, the Word made flesh. Such is the New Testament.

In the Old Testament, we see “*Ezra reading from the Law of God and the people understood what was read*” (Neh.8:3). The Scriptures are a guide for ordering our lives according to God's will. Here the word of God is to renew a broken nation after its exile.

When “*Ezra opened the book all the people stood up*” (Neh.8:5). The word of God convicts us of our sinfulness and also give us hope. It cleanses us and heals us. Such is the rebuilding and spiritual renewal.

And such is our joyful response: “*Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life*” (Jn.6:63). They enlighten us and make us wise. God's laws are guidelines and show us the way. “*The command of the Lord is clear, it gives light to the eyes*” (Ps.18:8).

Interestingly, Psalm 18 begins by addressing God as *EI*, an impersonal word for God. As it progresses in praise of God it speaks to him as *Yahweh*, taking his laws as personal “*The decrees of the Lord are truth my rescuer, my rock*” (Ps.18:15).

As the Law expresses God's concern for us, so in its fullness it entails our concern for one another, “*each equally concerned for all the others*” (1 Cor.12:27). In using the body analogy, Paul expresses how “*if one part is hurt, all parts are hurt with it*” (1 Cor.12:26).

In fact, the perfection of the law is seen in the body of Christ, the Church. We are different parts of the body yet one spirit. “*Together you are Christ's body, but each of you a different part of it*” (1Cor. 12:25). **How do you fit into the Church with your gifts?**

The Gospel shows “*Jesus, with the power of the Spirit in him*” (Lk.4:14), the same Spirit that he breathed into his Church. In “*unrolling the scroll*” (Lk.4:17), he opens the Old Testament and proclaims its fulfilment. “*This text is being fulfilled today*” (Lk.4:21).

Christ stands before his people as the fulfilment of the Law and all it promises. He proclaims that “*the Spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has anointed me. He has sent me to bring the good news*” (Lk.4:18).

The **Gospel** for this year is Luke. Read how he opens his Gospel and how Jesus begins his ministry (Lk.1:1-4 & 4:14-21).

Advert especially to the moment when the Gospel is proclaimed in the **Eucharist**.

Listen to Jesus' **Teaching**, proclamation of who he is, the 'Anointed One', *Mesiah*, Christ. Study the people's reaction.

Study your own reactions: **positive, negative, indifferent? What is your commitment for Witness this year of 2010?**

FOR THE CHILDREN

Share the beginning of Luke's **Gospel** and beginning of Christ's ministry (Lk.1:1-4;4:14-21). **What happens when Gospel is read at Mass? Why stand and cross minds, lips and heart?**

A.Moss Give Teaching on who is Jesus Christ and what is his mission.

Be open to the Word of God and give Witness by sharing it with others.

FOR TEENAGERS (Shared Christian Praxis)

My Present Action: *What does the Gospel mean to you? Who is Christ?*

Your Story and Vision: *How strong is your faith?* Arjuna in the *Bhagavad Gita*, could say “Firm is my faith. Thy will be done” (18:73).

Church’s Story: *Teacher gives Church teaching on who is Christ and Gospel.*

Church’s Story and Yours: *How much do your experience Christ in the Church?*

Yours and Church’s Vision: Seek ways of getting to know better the Lord and his Church.

RCIA

Jesus announces his coming, fulfils the promises of the Messiah, and initiates the time of grace.

LIFE EXPERIENCE: Readings in Rhyme

When meditating upon the Scriptures, some words rhyme for Bible time:

Nehemiah 8:2-6 People heard the Law and showed concern,
according to the book of Nehemiah.
They had felt its power, their hearts did burn
at the preaching of their priest, Ezrah.

Psalms 18 Psalm Eighteen cuts to heart like a knife,
showing God’s Law for His favoured.
It touches us deeply in spirit and life
as sung by the shepherd-king David.

1 Cor. 12:12-30 The Law is the same in spite of differences,
being one body for all.
There are no exceptions and no preferences,
as in Corinthians by Paul.

Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21 The fulfilment of the Law is Jesus Christ,
not simply by chance or fluke.
Rather it is based on faith and trust,
as shown in the Gospel of Luke.

Read not the Gospel as words from past
but for our present reflection.
Be filled with a spirit of love that will last,
a challenge for authentic action.

A.Moss

LITTLE ANGELINA

I watched Angelina and the little children play. They were not satisfied with their game. They stopped, they thought, and they said “Let us begin again.” It reminded me of the living out of our lives. Some things are not right. How often do we admit it and say “Let us begin again” and do it the proper way? *Finita la commedia* (the farce is over), the game is up. Stop, begin again, and do it God’s way. Such dissatisfaction with the way things are going is a point of growth, a way of perfection, to “refashion the face that I have spoiled” (i)

(i) *THE PRAYERS AND MEDITATIONS OF ST. ANSELM*. Transl. by *WARD* Benedicta. 8:180. Penguin. UK. 1986. p.132

