



Liturgy Cycle C

Third Sunday Of The Year **Good News For The Poor**

Introduction

Jesus began his ministry by making his own the words of Isaiah: 'He sent me to bring good news to the poor.' The good news is that God's mercy is available to all those who hunger for it. Let us not then be afraid to admit our sinfulness and spiritual poverty before God, for Jesus made himself the friend of sinners and of the poor. Let us ask the Lord's forgiveness for our sins.

I confess to almighty God . . .

First Reading (Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10)

After the Jews returned from exile in Babylon the nation had to be rebuilt. To Ezra fell the task of re-establishing the Jewish religion. Here he reads the book of the law of Moses to the people.

Second Reading (1 Cor 12:12-30)

The human body is one though made up of many parts. So it is with the Church. Though it is composed of different members, coming from different backgrounds and endowed with different gifts, it forms a unity in Christ.

Gospel (Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21)

In the synagogue in his native village of Nazareth Jesus makes the astonishing announcement that in him the great prophecy of Isaiah is being fulfilled. He is the long awaited Saviour of the poor and the oppressed.

Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to Christ our Saviour. We believe that through the power of the Holy Spirit he is still present and active among us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For the Church: that through its fearless voice, the poor and the downcast may hear the good news of God's love and care for them. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

For all the powerful and privileged of the world who are blinded by pride and materialism: that the Lord may open their eyes. Lord, hear us.

R: Lord, graciously hear us.



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**For those whose hearts are broken with disappointment and. misfortune:
that the Lord may comfort them. Lord, hear us.**

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

**That the Lord may keep us from coveting or relying on those things
which counted for nothing with him — money, fame and power. Lord,
hear us.**

R: Lord, graciously hear us.

Let us pray:

**Heavenly Father, through Christ your Son we experience in our lives your
love and healing, your forgiveness and compassion. May we share
generously with others the blessings we have received from you. We ask
this through the same Christ our Lord.**

Communion Reflection

'He sent me to bring good news to the poor.'

But who are the poor?

The poor are the hungry and the thirsty.

The poor are those who go about in rags.

The poor are the homeless.

The poor are the sick.

The poor are the physically and mentally handicapped.

The poor are the old.

The poor are the imprisoned.

The poor are the sad and depressed.

The poor are those who suffer injustice.

The poor are the unemployed and those on low wages.

The poor are the rejects and unwanted.

The poor are the lonely and the unloved.

The poor are the alcoholics and drug addicts.

The poor are those who live on bread alone

and who never hear the Word of God.

The poor are those with hearts of flesh

but who do not love.

The poor, in one way or another, are we ourselves.

Before God we all are poor.

May we never see poverty as a curse from God.

Rather may we know that when we are poor

the Kingdom of Heaven is ours,