

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday of the Word of God (Year C)



Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled.'

In as much as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and 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 proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

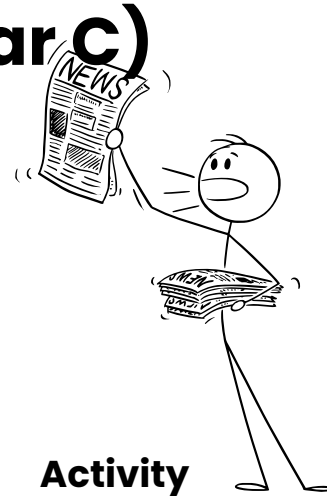
And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Reflection

In Luke 1:1-4, the writer explains that he is putting together a clear story about Jesus, so everyone can understand who He is, and what He did. It's like a guide to the most important events in the Christian faith! Then in Luke 4:14-21, Jesus steps into the spotlight and shares His mission by quoting the prophet Isaiah. He explains that He is here to bring good news to those who are struggling, to help people find freedom, and to give sight to the blind. This is the start of His journey to make a real difference in the world. Together, these passages remind us that Jesus came to change lives and lift people up. They encourage us to be part of His mission, spreading hope and kindness in our own communities!



Materials needed

- Copy of the Gospel participants can see
- Slips of paper and envelope (1 for each participant)
- Big paper (if not using a whiteboard)

Activity

- Begin by reading the Gospel passage. Explain that Luke's intention was to provide a trustworthy account of Jesus' life, so readers could have certainty in what they believed.
- Ask the group to re-read verses 18-19 (Jesus reading Isaiah's words about His mission) and discuss the four parts of His mission:
 - Bringing good news to the poor
 - Proclaiming freedom for the captives
 - Giving sight to the blind
 - Setting the oppressed free
- Invite participants to reflect on how each part of this mission might apply to real issues in today's world. Record responses on a whiteboard or large sheet of paper. How are we being called to respond?

Call to Action

- Ask participants to collect ideas of ways they see these needs in their own communities, or beyond. Give each group some paper to record their ideas and examples, and give time for sharing.
- Give a sheet of paper and an envelope to each participant. Ask them to think about one way they can live out Jesus' mission in their own lives, focusing on a specific group or need (e.g. sharing encouraging messages with those who feel alone, volunteering in the community).
- On their sheet of paper, ask them to write: One action they can commit to in the next month. They should place this paper in their envelope with their name on, and in a month these can be handed back to see how they got on.