

YEAR C, EPIPHANY 3 RCL, SUNDAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the Book of Nehemiah

And all the people gathered as one man into the square before the Water Gate; and they told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which the LORD had given to Israel. ² And Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding, on the first day of the seventh month. ³ And 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.

⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people; and when he opened it all the people stood. ⁶ And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God; and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands; and they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

⁸ And they read from the book, from the law of God, clearly; and they gave the sense, so that the people

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understood the reading.⁹ 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.¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to him 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.”

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 19

The Said Mass Reader says:

Please join me in reading Psalm 19, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 606.

The Reader repeats the above information several times.

- ¹ The heavens declare the glory of God, *
 and the firmament shows his handiwork.
- ² One day tells its tale to another, *
 and one night imparts knowledge to another.

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- ³ Although they have no words or language, *
and their voices are not heard,
- ⁴ Their sound has gone out into all lands, *
and their message to the ends of the world.
- ⁵ In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; *
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his
chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
- ⁶ It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; *
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.
- ⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; *
the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom
to the innocent.
- ⁸ The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; *
the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives
light to the eyes.
- ⁹ The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; *
the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous
altogether.

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- ¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, more than
much fine gold, *
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.
- ¹¹ By them also is your servant enlightened, *
and in keeping them there is great reward.
- ¹² Who can tell how often he offends? *
cleanse me from my secret faults.
- ¹³ Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous
sins;
let them not get dominion over me; *
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offense.
- ¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight,*
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

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The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

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. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body -- Jews or Greeks, slaves or free -- and all were made to drink of one Spirit. ¹⁴ For the body does not consist of one member but of many. ¹⁵ If the foot should 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. ¹⁶ And if the ear should 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. ¹⁷ If the whole body were an eye, where would be the hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? ¹⁸ But as it is, God arranged the organs in the body, each one of them, as he chose. ¹⁹ If all were a single organ, where would the body be? ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts, yet one body. ²¹ The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need

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of you.”²² On the contrary, the parts of the body which seem to be weaker are indispensable,²³ and those parts of the body which we think less honorable we invest with the greater honor, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty,²⁴ which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior part,²⁵ that there may be no discord in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another.²⁶ If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together.²⁷ Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.²⁸ And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, then healers, helpers, administrators, speakers in various kinds of tongues.²⁹ Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles?³⁰ Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?³¹ But earnestly desire the higher gifts.

The Reader concludes The Word of the Lord.

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Verse before the Gospel

All stand as the reader leads the appointed acclamation.

Reader Alleluia.

People Alleluia.

Reader The Lord has anointed me to preach
good news to the poor, *
and to set at liberty those who are
oppressed.

People Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel

The Minister says

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Minister ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee, and a report concerning him went out through all the surrounding country. ¹⁵ And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. ¹⁶ And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; ¹⁷ and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written, ¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, ¹⁹ to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” ²⁰ And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.