

JANUARY 23, 2022  
THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY



*Jesus sets us free.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Luke 4:14-21	Jesus returns to Nazareth
Monday	Nehemiah 8:1-10	Ezra reads God's law to the people
Tuesday	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a	One body, many parts
Wednesday	Isaiah 61:1-7	The good news of deliverance
Thursday	Leviticus 25:1-17	The year of jubilee
Friday	Galatians 5:13-15	Christian freedom
Saturday	Psalms 19	God's glory in creation and the law
Sunday	Luke 4:21-30	The prophet Jesus is rejected

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*"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 favor."* Luke 4:18-19 (NRSV)

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, for your message of freedom that is more desired than gold and sweeter than honey, we praise you through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Psalm 19:10)

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

For this food that strengthens the body and your word that strengthens our souls, we thank you. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the Spirit of Christ Jesus bless you and release you from all your burdens.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Soli Deo Gloria*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is something that bothers you and makes you feel weighed down?
- How do you think Jesus can help you when you have a problem?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Luke 4:14-21.

Short and sweet, this is Jesus' first sermon recorded in Luke: *"Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."* What Luke wants us to know about the good news of Jesus is found in the words of Isaiah 61:1-2. The Spirit of God rests on Jesus. Jesus has good news for the poor, the captive, the blind, the oppressed. The *"year of the Lord's favor"* is the year of jubilee announced in Leviticus 25. It keeps society from unraveling into unlimited wealth for some and perpetual poverty for others. Every fifty years slaves and prisoners would be freed, debts would be forgiven and lands lost to debts would be returned to ancestral owners. In recognition of the use and abuse of power and wealth, the year of jubilee allowed for fresh starts. That is what Jesus brings to us, a fresh start that releases us from poverty, from whatever bondage limits our life, whatever blinds us, whatever weighs us down. As we continue to read Luke, this opening sermon will clarify who Jesus is and what he is doing for all.

*Discuss:* How can Jesus give you a fresh start if something has been bothering you?

*Pray:* **Almighty and merciful God, we thank you for freeing us to serve you with thanksgiving and our neighbor in love, through Christ Jesus who preaches good news for all. Amen.**

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings and theme this week, how does knowing Jesus free and encourage you to serve others?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

The *"year of the Lord's favor,"* mentioned in Luke 4:19 is a community experience of forgiving debts mentioned in Leviticus 25 and known as the Year of Jubilee. Create a *Jubilee Jar* this week and place things you and others worry about into it. At the end of the week, read what you wrote and then pray: **Dear God, I thank you for being with me and giving me and others a fresh start each day through Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)