

## This Week's Readings

### First Reading: Nehemiah 8: 2-6, 8-10.

Returned from the exile, their city rebuilt, the people assemble to listen to God's Word.

### Second Reading: 1Corinthians 12: 12-30.

We are a community, each with his role to play under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

### Gospel: Luke 1: 1-4; 14-21.

Jesus announces himself to be the fulfillment of the Scriptures.



## Points for Reflection

1. It was the practice in synagogue worship to have a reading from the Law and another from the Prophets of the Old Testament, followed by a sermon. In today's event Jesus was invited to act as both the reader and preacher. The **Gospel** notes that *'And the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him'*. It was really as if the eyes of all the people of God, who had ever lived, were looking upon Jesus at that moment. Century upon century of promises from God and waiting by the people focused upon that moment in time. Jesus read, as we have just heard, a passage from the book of Isaiah. Then he spoke simple, but momentous words – words which sounded astonishing to his listeners: *"Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing"*. Actually, it was not only this passage from the Old Testament that Jesus fulfilled. Jesus was the perfect fulfillment of everything written in the Old Testament; moreover, he embodied and completed in himself the whole destiny and purpose of the chosen people.

ones a priestly people, set apart to offer a pleasing worship to the one true God, and to receive his blessings in return. But the whole destiny of the chosen people was in the future, in a great day of the Lord, when the Messiah would come. The Messiah was to fulfill not just some prophecies made about his coming, but he would perfect and complete the whole purpose of the chosen people.
2. In the **First Reading** we see Nehemiah reminding the people of their destiny. In reading the word of God to them, he was reminding them that they were a people set apart by God, so that they could preserve his truth, law and worship, and mediate his blessings to all mankind. By means of the prophets, judges and kings God made his truth and law known. Through them he pointed out the way of life that his people were to follow. Also God made of his chosen
3. Then on that apparently ordinary day in the humble synagogue of Nazareth, Jesus, in simple words, spoke tremendous truth. In effect he said: "I am the one you have been waiting for. All the centuries of promise and waiting have become reality in me".
4. We are the new chosen people of God. We are people, not of promise, but of fulfillment. Jesus is alive and active among us, who are the People of God and the Church. To fulfill our destiny, to be true to our Christian call and mission, we must be committed to Christ. He is the One we must know, because he is the truth. His way of living we must follow and imitate. His commitment to the needy and suffering of the world, and his proclamation of the time of the Lord's grace we must make our own plan of action, because he is the way, the only way to the Father. He is the only way to a meaningful life and to true happiness for the world and us. He is the life...

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<b>Parish Priest:</b> Fr Carlo Tei (E-mail: <a href="mailto:carlotel@gmail.com">carlotel@gmail.com</a> )  Fr Sergio Ticozzi, Fr Augustine Zaw, Sr Mary Leung (helping on Sundays)	Anticipated Sunday Mass Saturdays: 6.00 pm (English) 7.30 pm (Chinese) Public holidays: 8 00 am (Chinese) Weekdays: 7.00 am (Chinese)
<b>Secretary:</b> Miss Tse Choi Ping <b>Office hours:</b> Mon-Fridays: 9.00am – 1.00pm; 2.00pm – 6.00pm Saturdays: 10.00am – 12 noon Sundays: 8.45am – 12 noon	<b>Confessions:</b> Sundays before Mass; Weekdays on call
<b>Parish Council Chairlady:</b> Miss Candy Chan Tel: 23265322	<b>Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:</b> Thursdays: 2.30 pm 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month 8.00 pm

**Kids' Corner**

Colour the picture below based on today's Gospel reading.

