

JANUARY 27, 2019  
THIRD SUNDAY  
AFTER EPIPHANY



*Jesus comes to set 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 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10	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	Romans 12:1-8	Christ brings new life
Friday	John 8:31-36	The truth will set you free
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:**

Lord Jesus Christ, for the good news announced to us, the freedom given to us, and for sight that enlightens us, we give you thanks. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord Jesus, we thank you for this food. May this meal fill our bodies and your word fill our souls. Amen.

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

May the Lord sustain you when you are weary, free you when you are burdened, and bless you with grace and favor. (Luke 4:18-19)



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HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*Soli Deo Gloria*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS

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

- When you are free to choose, what is one of your favorite things you like to do?
- When have you been set free from a burden?
- The prophet Isaiah and Jesus announce God's power of freeing people's lives from things like poverty, imprisonment, and physical illness. What would you like to be set free from by the power of God?

### DEVOTIONS



Read: Luke 4:14-21.

The text Jesus chooses from Isaiah sets the stage for what Jesus has come to do: set people free. The root word for freedom used here is also the word for forgiveness. At the heart of all human burdens and limitations is the pain of regret. People regret what they have done, and they regret the things they have failed to do. At the end of our day and the end of our days, it is good to be set free from both and to rest in the care and embrace of the God who sets us free from our past to enjoy an eternal future. To be set free is to be freed to love others and to love ourselves. This is the wisdom of faith celebrated by the psalmist. Such divine teachings (law), precepts, and ordinances are more desirable "than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb" (Psalm 19:10). This is a picture of joy for which Jesus has now set us free. What images can you think of that show joy? How would you describe the joy of being set free by Jesus?

Pray: The Lord's Prayer.

### SERVICE



In 1 Corinthians 12:21-22, Paul says, "The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect." In our society, we tend to respect the honored and belittle others. Paul says that as the body of Christ, we are to care for one another. In what ways can you show care and compassion to those who suffer?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



The closing prayer in Psalm 19 is often used at the beginning of sermons, "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer" (v. 14). This week, pray this verse as part of a morning prayer ritual as a way to honor the day and see your actions and thoughts as a form of praise to God.



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)