

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1–4a,
5–6, 8–10

A reading from the book of Nehemiah

All the people came together
and stood in the open area in front of the Water Gate.
They asked Ezra the teacher to read to them from the Law of Moses
that the LORD had given from his people.

So on the first day of the seventh month
Ezra the priest came with the Law
and stood before the crowd of men and women.
Everyone who was able to understand was there.
From early morning till noon
Ezra read the Law of Moses aloud in front of the Water Gate.
They also listened carefully,
as Ezra stood and read from the wooden platform
that had been built for him.

The platform was very high,
and everyone could see Ezra as he opened the Book of the Law.
And when he opened it, they all stood up.
Ezra praised the wonderful LORD God,
and the people shouted, "Amen! Amen!"
They bowed low to the ground and worshiped the LORD.

The men who were on the platform with him translated what he read
and explained to the people what it meant.

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher,
and the Levites who had been teaching the people
all said, "Don't be sad or cry!
This is a special day for the LORD your God."
They said this because the people cried when
God's Law was read to them.

FIRST READING

Nehemiah 8:1–4a,
5–6, 8–10

(Continued)

Nehemiah told the people,
“Enjoy your good food and wine
and share what you have
with everyone who didn’t have anything to bring.
Don’t be sad!
This is a special day for the LORD,
and he will make you happy and strong.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 19:7, 8, 14

All: *Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.*

*The Law of the LORD is perfect;
it gives us new life.
His teachings last forever,
and they give wisdom
to ordinary people.*

All: *Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.*

*The LORD's instruction is right;
it makes our hearts glad.
His commands shine brightly,
and they give us light.*

All: *Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.*

*Let my words and my thoughts
be pleasing to you, LORD,
because you are my mighty rock
and my protector.*

All: *Your words, Lord, are spirit and life.*

SECOND READING
Corinthians 12:12–14, 27

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
The body of Christ has many different parts,
just as any other body does.
Some of us are Jews, and others are Gentiles.
Some of us are slaves, and others are free.
But God's Spirit baptized each of us
and made us part of the body of Christ.
Now we each drink from the same Spirit.

Our bodies don't have just one part.
They have many parts.

Together you are the body of Christ.
Each one of you is part of his body.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL
Luke 4:14–21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Jesus returned to Galilee with the power of the Spirit.
News about him spread everywhere.
He taught in the Jewish meeting places,
and everyone praised him.

Jesus went back to Nazareth, where he had been brought up,
and as usual he went to the meeting place on the Sabbath.
When he stood up to read from the Scriptures,
he was given the book of Isaiah the prophet.
He opened it and read,

“The Lord’s Spirit has come to me,
because he has chosen me
to tell the good news to the poor.
The Lord has sent me to announce freedom for prisoners,
to give sight to the blind,
to free everyone who suffers,
and to say, ‘This is the year the Lord has chosen.’”

Jesus closed the book,
then handed it back to the man in charge and sat down.

Everyone in the meeting place looked straight at Jesus.
Then Jesus said to them,
“What you have just heard me read has come true today.”

The Gospel of the Lord.