

HOMILY ON THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – JANUARY 26, 2025



Nehemiah 8: 2 -4a, 5- 6, 8- 10, Psalm 19: 8- 10, 15, 1 Corinthians 12: 12 -30, Luke 1:1-4; 4: 14- 21.

My dear friends in Christ, the Bible is the faith-experience or God-experience of an individual or a group, written so that those who read it might have a similar experience, knowledge of God.

In the gospel reading today, St. Luke the apostle presented to us an orderly account of the experience of the first witnesses who became minister of the word.

Whenever we read this written experience, it leads us to have a true knowledge of God - the depth of God's love, and the purpose of our life on earth - to enjoy this love by following His Commandments of loving God and loving our Neighbor.

In the first reading today, the people who hear God's word from the Scribe Ezra, were moved to the point of weeping. Their eyes were open, and they reached a new level of understanding.

Many lives are transformed; a community is shaped; all because of the power of God's word.

The people were encouraged to transform their weeping into joy, meaning that we find our hope - the root of all that gives us life and life abundant in God's word.

In the gospel reading today, Our Lord Jesus Christ the Word made flesh that dwells among us was consecrated by the Spirit of the Lord, to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives and sight to the blind; to free the oppressed and to announce the Lord's year of mercy.

Finally, in the second reading today, St. Paul, teaches on the Spiritual gifts as they cooperate to empower God's will for the Church.

Just as different parts of a body depend on each other, Christians rely on each other and need to value- the roles of every member, even those that are considered less significant in our communities.

Each person has a unique role to play in the body of Christ, and neglecting one's gift weakens the whole Church.

May God give us the grace to embrace his word for the positive transformation of our lives and our world, Amen.

Peace be with you all!

Fr. Elias Udeh, CSSp.