**January 26, 2025** Lk 4:14-21; 1 Cor 12:12-31

* Surprised that the lectionary did not have Isaiah 62 for the Old testament reading as that was what Jesus read in the Synagogue as the fulfillment of His ministry.
* Nehemiah however is a wonderful passage that shows the Israelites returning from captivity and weeping when they heard the Law of Moses (Scriptures) being read.
* It is a wonderful scene of repentance that was summarized with the words, “***The joy of the Lord is your strength***.”
* Do two things: 1) Look at Jesus’ pronouncement in Luke’s gospel and 2) Look at St Paul’s description of how we are to live in unity as Christians.
* Today’s gospel is a contrast from last week’s (Wedding at Cana) when Jesus said to Mary, “***My time has not yet come***”
* He was at the very beginning of his ministry and about all He had done at that point was to call His disciples.
* Jesus did turn the water into wine, but rather than use the miracle as an opportunity to reveal who He was to the wedding guests, He used it exclusively to reveal His glory (His divinity) only to the disciples and thus build their faith.
* Today’s gospel from Luke reflects just the opposite.
* Jesus said: “***Today this scripture is fulfilled in***

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***your hearing.***”

* By this, I would suggest He was saying “***My time has now come.***”
* We are very early in Luke’s gospel (ch 4), and Luke has covered the birth of Jesus, the ministry of John the B where Jesus was baptized by John the B and where He was affirmed as the Son of God (***This is my Son whom I love. In Him I am well pleased***).
* Right after which we read that full of the HS, He was led into the desert where He faced the temptations of Satan, and then we read today how again, in the power of the Spirit, He returned to Galilee, and went into the synagogue in His own town of Nazareth.
* There is a little problem here that confuses some people as it would appear from this gospel account that Jesus had just returned from the desert and all the temptations.
* However, there is a significant piece of Jesus’ ministry that Luke seems to have left out – ***but not really.***
* The key to the missing part is found in verses 14 & 15.

***Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues, and everyone praised him.*** (Lk 4:14-15)

* What Luke has done in these two verses is to

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summarize Jesus’ previous ministry because he thought it was Very important to begin with Jesus’ announcement of exactly who He was.

* The other details of Jesus’ ministry is all there if you read on – it is just out of chronological order.
* Remember that Luke the doctor was also known as an historian. He was especially keen on details that we see both in his gospel and in Acts.
* Also, Luke was a Gentile.
* Luke’s reporting is a matter of him rightly presenting the facts organized in such a way that we are left with no doubt about who Jesus is or what He is about.
* What he has done in today’s passage is to begin by announcing who Jesus is, of what His ministry consists, what His church will be and do, and what will be the response to both Jesus and the church.
* Although Luke is a Gentile, the passage today reminds us that all that Jesus says and does is within the confines of Judaism.
* Jesus affirms the Sabbath, the Scriptures and the synagogue.
* Jesus not only attends synagogue services regularly but He participates , as all male adults were permitted to do, by reading scripture and commenting on it.
* He picked up the scroll and stood up to read

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as was His custom.

* Now to St Paul’s idea of unity
* Article in the reader’s Digest called: “***What Good is a tree?***”
* Article explained that when the roots of trees touch, there is a substance present that reduces competition. In fact, this unknown fungus helps link roots of different trees – even of dissimilar species. A whole forest may be linked together. If one tree has access to water, another to nutrients, and a third to sunlight, the trees have the means to share with one another.
* Think that describes quite accurately what St Paul is talking about in this morning’s Epistle reading from 1 Cor 12.
* Like trees in a forest, Christians in the Church are all different – but they need and support one another.
* St Paul demonstrated how the physical body is made up of many parts, how each has an important function, and how each part is dependent on the other. Likewise, as St Paul tells us, the Church, as the Body of Christ, is made up of many members, and we all have different gifts and abilities that we are called to offer for the building up of the Church. No matter what we have to offer, it is all important.
* It is really about appreciating each other and

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our different gifts and to offer ourselves and our gifts to the glory of God.