

# January 24, 2010

## Third Sunday, Ordinary Time

Greetings!

My nephew always thought Christmas came from a box. When he was perhaps 2 or 3 he watched very carefully where all those decorations came from and how most of them were retrieved from various boxes from the basement. As the day of Christmas approached, box by box, the lights, the decorations, and finally the tree came up out of the basement and were placed in the appropriate spots. Once Christmas was over, my nephew watched as the process was done in reverse thereby coming to the conclusion that "Christmas" lives in a box in the basement.

Christmas is hopefully back in a box at your house, but may the spirit of Christmas continue to live in your heart as we journey through this new year.

Marty Lucas

### **Gospel**

Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the events that have been fulfilled among us, just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most excellent Theophilus, so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath day. He stood up to read and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah.

He unrolled the scroll and found the passage where it was written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free,  
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.*

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat down,  
and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at him.

He said to them,

“Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

## **Reflection**

In today's Gospel, we hear Jesus going to synagogue on the Sabbath. Imagine that the audience at the service was not terribly unlike most of us at Sunday Mass, half hearing the nice message. I would also bet that the audience at that time found it a great comfort to hear Jesus read that a Savior, a Messiah would come to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to the captives, to give sight to the blind, to set the oppressed free....thinking that all of this would occur in the distant future. Lovely words, something to look forward to, but in all of those words, there are seemingly no demands placed on us right now.

However, Jesus continues and these Sabbath-goers are taken aback! Jesus puts down the scroll and says “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.” Jesus is telling them that what they hope for is not something that will happen later. It is already here. Stop putting off your future until tomorrow and begin to do something NOW.

So often, our prayer asks for God's intervention in the future. We want God to come and give us a world with only good health and riches. We want God to make sure things occur according to *our* wishes. But the presence of God is here and now. *This* day is God's day. We will never find God if we continue to dream about the day he will come and set everything right for us. If we are to be with God, we have to be with a God who is in the present moment of joy or of pain, in our present relationships whether they are good or bad. God's energy is in our lives all the time. It is up to us to recognize it and harness it.