

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr C)

Reading 1

Citation: Nehemiah, Chap. 8, Verses 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10
Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Use a slightly different voice than that of Nehemiah as you introduce the story. Things get serious, though, when Nehemiah speaks to the people urging them to enjoy this day of the Lord. The difference between the seriousness of listening to God's Word and celebrating His presence in the world makes the point of the story.

A reading from the Book of Nehemiah

Ezra
the priest (parenthetical expression?)
brought the law before the assembly,
which consisted of men, women, and those children old enough to understand. (parenthetical)

Standing at one end of the open place that was before the Water Gate,
he read out of the book
from daybreak till midday, (some surprise)
in the presence of the men,
the women,
and those children old enough to understand; (short pause)
and all the people listened attentively to the book of the law.

Ezra
the scribe (parenthetical)
stood on a wooden platform that had been made for the occasion. (matter-of-fact)

He opened the scroll
so that all the people might see it
-- for he was standing higher up than any of the people --; (parenthetical expression)
and,
as he opened it,
all the people rose. (very short pause)

Ezra blessed the LORD,
the great God, (short pause)

and all the people,
their hands raised high, (parenthetical)
answered,
"Amen, amen!" (raise volume)

Then they bowed down and prostrated themselves before the LORD,
their faces to the ground. (short pause)

Proclamation Format

Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God,
interpreting it
so that all could understand what was read.

(short pause)

Then Nehemiah,
that is,
His Excellency,
and Ezra the priest-scribe
and the Levites who were instructing the people
said to all the people:

(parenthetical expression)

(show some deference to the title)

(short pause)

"Today is holy to the LORD your God.
Do not be sad,
and do not weep"
for all the people were weeping as they heard the words of the law.

(short pause)

(insistent)

(compassionate)

(parenthetical expression)

He said further:
"Go,
eat rich foods and drink sweet drinks,
and allot portions to those who had nothing prepared;
for today is holy to our LORD.

(affirming, positive)

(very short pause)

(confirming)

Do not be saddened this day,
for rejoicing in the LORD must be your strength!"

(gladness, positive)

The word of the Lord.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr C)

Reading 2
LONGER FORM

Citation: 1 Corinthians, Chap. 12, Verses 12-30
1 Corinthians 12: 12-30

Paul's lengthy argument for the unity of the Church in Jesus, the Christ. He introduces the concept of humanity as a single entity rather than tribes and nations. Using the human body as his template he demonstrates how all of us contribute to the significance of species as part of creation. Being believers in Jesus and what He did we are now committed to ensuring that the Christ rein over all mankind. Be Paul.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

As a body is one
though it has many parts, (parenthetical expression)
and all the parts of the body,
though many, (parenthetical expression)
are one body,
so also Christ. (short pause)

For in one Spirit
we were all baptized into one body, (very short pause)
whether Jews or Greeks, (voice goes up)
slaves or free persons, (voice goes down)
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit. (short pause)

Now the body is not a single part,
but many. (very short pause)
If a foot should say,
"Because I am not a hand I do not belong to the body," (change voice tone)
it does not
for this reason (parenthetical expression)
belong any less to the body. (very short pause)
Or if an ear should say,
"Because I am not an eye I do not belong to the body," (change voice tone)
it does not for this reason
belong any less to the body. (very short pause)

If the whole body were an eye, (Help listeners see the contrasts, here)
where would the hearing be?
If the whole body were hearing,
where would the sense of smell be?
But

Proclamation Format

as it is,
God placed the parts,
each one of them,
in the body as he intended.

(very short pause)

If they were all one part,
where would the body be?
But

(again, contrasts)

as it is,
there are many parts,
yet one body.

(very short pause)

The eye cannot say to the hand,
"I do not need you,"
nor again
the head to the feet, "I do not need you."

(change voice tone)

Indeed,
the parts of the body that seem to be weaker
are all the more necessary,
and those parts of the body that we consider less honorable
we surround with greater honor,
and our less presentable parts are treated with greater propriety,
whereas
our more presentable parts do not need this.

(change voice tone)

(very short pause)

(short pause)

But God has so constructed the body
as to give greater honor to a part that is without it,
so that there may be no division in the body,
but that the parts may have the same concern for one another.

If one part suffers,
all the parts suffer with it;
if one part is honored,
all the parts share its joy.

(voice goes up)

(voice goes down)

(pick up pace a bit)

(slow down a bit)

Now
you are Christ's body,
and individually
parts of it.

(very short pause)

(very short pause)

Some people
God has designated in the church to be,
first,
apostles;
second,
prophets;

Proclamation Format

third, teachers;
then,
mighty deeds;
then gifts of healing, assistance, administration, and varieties of tongues. (short pause)

Are all apostles? {questioning voice throughout
Are all prophets? Are all teachers? { this section
Do all work mighty deeds? {
Do all have gifts of healing? {
Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? { (Pause!)

The word of the Lord.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(Yr C)

Reading 2
SHORTER FORM

Citation: 1 Corinthians, Chap. 12, Verses 12-14, 27
1 Corinthians 12: 12-14, 27

Paul's argument for believers in Jesus to see the community of believers (Church) as one with the Jesus, Himself.

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

As a body is one
though it has many parts,
and all the parts of the body,
though many,
are one body,
so also Christ.

(be insistent)
(parenthetical expression)

(parenthetical expression?)

For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body,
whether Jews or Greeks,
slaves or free persons,
and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.

(be insistent)
(voice goes up)
(voice goes down)

Now the body is not a single part,
but many.
You are Christ's body,
and
individually
parts of it.

(very short pause)
(insisting) (very short pause)
(almost parenthetical)

The word of the Lord.

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr C)

GOSPEL

Citation: Luke, Chap. 1, Verses 1-4; Chap. 4, Verses 14-21
Luke 1: 1-4; 4: 14-21

The opening of Luke's Gospel as well as his attempt to establish Jesus as the Christ by referencing Isaiah. You are telling a story in the first section. As you transition into the second section (the synagogue in Nazareth & the quote from Isaiah) change your voice tone to one of very serious reverence and respect for who Jesus is and end with an insistence on His authority.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

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 (NOT parenthetical)
and ministers of the word have handed them down to us, "
I too
have decided,
after investigating everything accurately anew, (parenthetical)
to write it down in an orderly sequence for you,
most excellent Theophilus, (not quite parenthetical)
so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have received. (short pause)

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

He came to Nazareth,
where he had grown up, (parenthetical)
and went
according to his custom (parenthetical)
into the synagogue on the sabbath day. (very short pause)
He stood up to read
and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. (very short pause)
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. (very short pause)
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind, (very short pause)
to let the oppressed go free,
and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord. (very short pause)

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. (very short pause)

Proclamation Format

He said to them,
"Today
this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing."

(very firm; authoritative)
(Pause)

The Gospel of the Lord.