

Nehemiah 8, Selected Verses (NIV)

¹ All the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. ² Accordingly, Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. ³ He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand, and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.... ⁵ And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people, and when he opened it, all the people stood up. ⁶ Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground... ⁹ And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord, and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Luke: 4:14-19 (NRSVUE)

¹⁴ Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding region. ¹⁵ He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. ¹⁶ When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,

to set free those who are oppressed,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

JOINT SERVICE OF



AND

ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 26, 2025

**WE ARE THANKFUL
THAT YOU ARE HERE**

"Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the more often and perseveringly my thinking engages itself with them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me."

Immanuel Kant

*Community United Methodist Church
and
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church*

January 26, 2024

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WORDS OF WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 19:1-14 (NIV)

¹ The heavens declare the glory of God;

the skies proclaim the work of his hands.

² Day after day they pour forth speech;

night after night they reveal knowledge.

³ They have no speech, they use no words;

⁴ **Yet their voice goes out into all the earth,
their words to the ends of the world.**

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵ **It is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber,
like a champion rejoicing to run his course.**

⁶ It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.

⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹ The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.

¹⁰ They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey,

than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹ By them your servant is warned;

in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can discern their own errors?

Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³ Keep your servant also from willful sins;

may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,

innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart

be pleasing in your sight,

Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

*HYMN How Firm a Foundation No. 463

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed No. 35

*GLORIA PATRIA No. 581

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER; THE LORD'S PRAYER

*HYMN Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart No. 688

OLD TESTAMENT READING Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

*GOSPEL LESSON Luke 4:14-19

This is the word of God, for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "The Starry Heavens... the Moral Law" Lew Dunn

*HYMN: Live Into Hope No. 772

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

** All who are comfortable doing so, please stand*