

**SHARING THE FAITH: WEEKLY EMAIL DEVOTION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 24, 2010**

Reading for January 24, 2010, Third Sunday after Epiphany:

LUKE 4:14-21

¹⁴ Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. 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 let the oppressed go free,

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

²⁰ And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. ²¹ Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

Faith Questions:

1. According to this text, what is Jesus' mission? Do you see Jesus' mission being fulfilled in the world today? Where? How?
2. If you believe that in Jesus, these words are being fulfilled today, then how do you think you and all Christians should respond? What might our world look like if we believed these words from Isaiah were not only true about Jesus, but were also true about each of us?
3. Last week our world witnessed a devastating natural disaster in Haiti, where rescue workers are now estimating there were hundreds of thousands of lives lost. What hope exists for the people of Haiti in this text? What hope exists for any of us?
4. What is this text calling us, as a people of God, to be?
5. Being Spirit-filled, according to verses 18-19, means revolutionary relationship with the poor and oppressed of the world. In what ways are you involved in this kind of work? Do you hunger to be more involved? If so, what might that look like?

Let us pray:

Dear God, fill us with your Spirit, so that we can be the revolutionary people you are calling us to be. Please be near the people of Haiti in the coming weeks and months as they seek to recover from last week's devastating earthquake. Help us, as a people of God, to be your hands and feet in Haiti and around the world.

For whom else, and for what else, shall we pray? (Insert your own prayer here)
Amen.

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Devotion prepared by staff at Trinity Lutheran Church, Lansdale, Pennsylvania, under the direction of Rebecca Kolowé, Diaconal Minister.

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