

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

Pilgrims of Hope, Hearers of the Word

The Sunday of the Word of God was established just six years ago by Pope Francis. The Word of God Sunday falls each year on the third Sunday in Ordinary Time, after the cycle of Christmas feasts. The choice of the third Sunday makes sense because on that day, we begin reading the Gospel for that particular year from the beginning. For example, on this Sunday our Gospel is Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21, giving us the prologue of the Gospel and the opening scene of Jesus' ministry in the synagogue at Nazareth. A good place to begin.

The Word of God Sunday has a theme for each year. This year the theme is taken from Psalm 119 – not the whole Psalm, you will be glad to know! – but verse 74: “I hope in your Word.” The gospel reading from Luke is especially appropriate for two reasons: (a) we hear the marvellous words “This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen”; and (b) we notice at the end of the Isaiah citation the programme of Jesus: “to proclaim the Lord’s year of favour,” that is, the jubilee year.

RESOURCES – LINKS

1. [Notes on the readings for Mass](#)
2. [A handbook on celebrating the Sunday of the Word of God](#)
3. [A brief podcast on the Sunday of the Word of God](#)