



Breaking Open the Word

- 2022 -

January 23, 2022

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 69

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."

Spiritual Reflections: In her book: *A Contemplative Reading of the Gospel Mathew: The Journey Toward Hope,* Scripture Scholar Elena Bosetti writes the following: "What is emphasized above all in this passage is Jesus' initiative. He freely gets up to task on reading in public (nothing is said of a possible invitation on the part of the president of the synagogue, although it would be logical to assume that such was extended.)"

Spiritual Questions:

1. How does Jesus not waiting to be asked speak to your heart?
2. Why is it important to Luke that Jesus took the initiative?
3. What message did Jesus bring to you?
4. What is your favorite Gospel passage?
5. Why did God let Jesus fail?