



CHRIST IN THE WORD

Resources for Sunday of the Word of God

Homily Starter Ideas

1. Mystery of the Word
 - a. 'Word' refers to Scriptures, but also to the person of Jesus Christ, the Word made Flesh
 - b. St. Jerome: 'Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ'
 - c. We are not just 'People of the Book', but 'People of the Word'
2. Liturgical Movement in the Liturgy of the Word
 - a. Call and response:
 - i. "The Word of the Lord" – "Thanks be to God"
 - ii. Responsorial Psalm – 'response' of the congregation to the 'call' of the First Reading
 - iii. Creed – 'response' of faith of the congregation to the 'call' of the entire preceding portion of the Liturgy of Word (cf. Ezra "all the people, their hands raised high, answered, 'Amen, amen!'")
 - b. "Ezra read plainly from the book of the law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read." – the Homily opens up the Scriptures for the contemporary reader / hearer
3. Posture/Signs/Music during the Liturgy of the Word
 - a. Sitting: attentive listening to scriptures and homily (cf. Ezra: 'all the people listened attentively to the book of the law.')
 - b. Standing: special honor to the Gospel that includes the words of Jesus himself ; Gospel Acclamation – solemn heralding the coming of the Word in the Gospel
 - i. (cf. Ezra: "He opened the scroll so that all the people might see it — for he was standing higher up than any of the people —; and, as he opened it, all the people rose")
 - c. Crossing head, mouth, heart: blessing ourselves to receive with our minds and hearts, the Word being spoken
 - d. Psalm: sung prayer book of Israel
4. Thanksgiving for the Scriptures that are life-giving (not constraining)
 - a. cf. Psalm response: 'Your words Lord are Spirit and Life'
 - b. Ps 19: The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul, giving wisdom, rejoicing the heart
 - c. Purpose of Scripture:
 - d. To hand on (traditio) saving teaching
 - e. cf. Luke "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"
 - f. "glad tidings to the poor" – Good News of fulfillment