

Fulfilled in Your Hearing

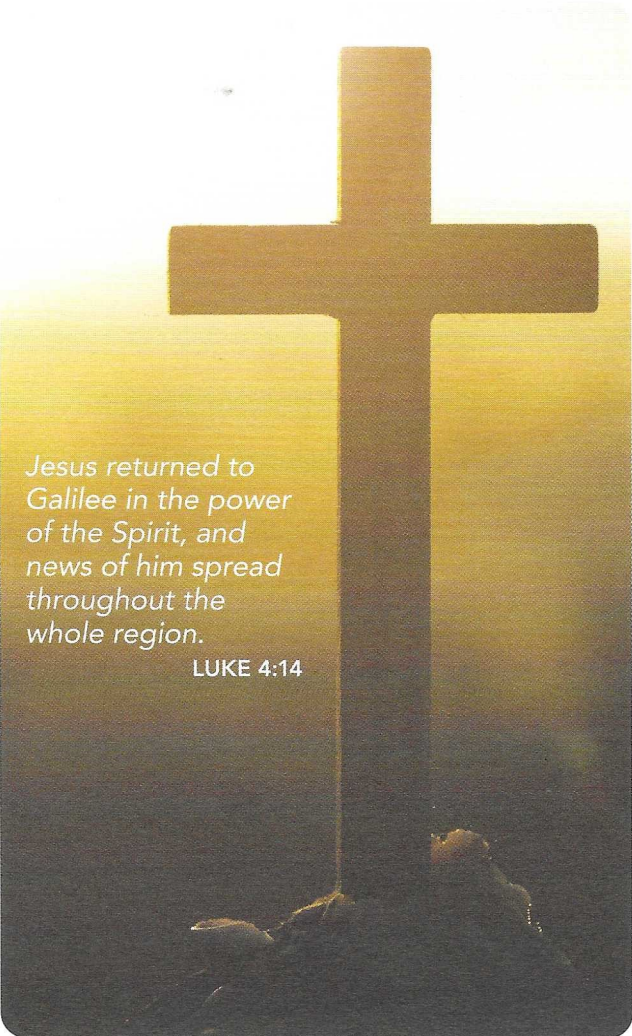
When we hear that phrase, we might be inclined to think of prophecy.

However, today's readings suggest something a bit different. True, in today's Gospel, Jesus states that he is the fulfillment of the promise made by the prophet Isaiah. However, the way that passage was fulfilled by Jesus was not the way his hearers expected. The passage seems to promise a change in society where there will be no more poor or prisoners. The people expected a political change which would overthrow Roman control. Jesus' application was quite different. The fulfillment of that prophecy included a new and often radical way of understanding society. In other words, Jesus revealed the true meaning of the prophecy.

Such reapplication is even clearer in the first reading. Nehemiah, the Jewish leader of those who had returned from Babylonian exile, gathered all the community together, read the Law, and then reapplied it for them.

Reapplication is often necessary because what might have been a helpful way of understanding something in our faith under some circumstances might be impractical, even inappropriate, in others. For example, to pray for an end to war is important, but to do nothing to work for peace changes how we understand prayer. Circumstances often change as we go through life. Reapplication of our faith acknowledges this and searches for ways that faith can continue to address those changing circumstances. Faithful reapplication always keeps our religious tradition alive and meaningful.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA



Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news of him spread throughout the whole region.

LUKE 4:14

FOR *Reflection*

- ✦ *In many ways the Second Vatican Council reapplied our faith. How has your understanding of how to apply our faith changed in your lifetime?*
- ✦ *Is there anything that you think still should change? Why do you think this?*