

Today we hear in the Gospel:

*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.*

Perhaps for the Jews in Jesus' time, this meant a future event. For us in our time, this may sound like a history lesson - something that happened a couple of millennia ago.

Yet Jesus suffixes something to this that is as relevant now as it was then:

Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.

And indeed, today this is fulfilled in our hearing.

Oftentimes we tend to push God off into the past and the future, and ignore that God is here ... Jesus is here ... the Holy Spirit is here.

But perhaps there's something uncomfortable about knowing that God is watching ... is present ... is within us.

In the First Readings for the past 10 days, we've heard from the Letters of St. John. Love this ... Love that ... God is love.

A key thing to remember is that John also ties love into obedience to God's commandments. Despite what some contemporary commentators may want us to believe, there is no opposition between God's love and God's commandments. Just as St. John reminds us:

*[W]e know that we love the children of God
when we love God and obey his commandments.
For the love of God is this,
that we keep his commandments.
And his commandments are not burdensome . . .*

As we approach this altar to receive the Sacred Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, let us pray for a deeper recognition of God's presence with us now ... at every moment of every day. With us ... within us ... around us. May we know that God's Word is not a thing of the past or the future ... but is fulfilled at every moment of our life ... here ... now.