



Cathedral Basilica of Our Lady of Peace

Cathedral of the Honolulu Diocese • Founded 1843 • National Historic Register

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 26, 2025

Beloved Pilgrims of Hope,

Greetings of peace, love, joy and hope!

“God Fulfills His Promises”

Every human being has always the desire to hope for something great and wonderful. We always wish for what can benefit our personal lives, our family, our job, and the world at large. We long for peace, love, and joy in every aspect of our journey into this world. The crucial part of this wish is where we look for it or to whom we seek these things. On this Jubilee Year of Hope, we are called back to deepening our understanding and relationship with Jesus, the fulfillment of God’s promises.

As we reflect on this special year, let us turn our hearts and minds to the story of Jesus returning to the place where He grew up. On a Sabbath day, He attended worship in the synagogue. He read a passage from the scroll of the prophet Isaiah: “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.” After reading, Jesus sat and said, “Today, this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

I want us all to focus on the action of Jesus, and that is, He read the Scripture passage. He knows how important it is not only for the people in the synagogue to have Scriptures as part of their worship. It is an essential part of their gathering as they hear God’s word to help and guide them. This time, it was not only read to them but fulfilled in their midst through the person Himself, Jesus, the Son of God.

Jesus presents to us the enduring value of the Scriptures in our lives. It is through the Word of God that we come to know and realize who God is and His boundless love for humanity. He calls each of us to know Him, love Him, and serve Him. We must ask ourselves: is Sacred Scripture still of value to us in deepening our faith and morals?

In this Jubilee Year of Hope, let us make it a point to read at least a passage or two from the Bible every day. Let us be inspired and directed by the Word of God in our daily lives, and that is, following the ways of Jesus. Let us plant seeds of kindness and compassion, nurturing a garden of hope that will flourish for years to come.

May the Jubilee Year of Hope bring renewed peace, joy, and a deeper connection to our faith. Let us embrace the simple beauty of our surroundings and find solace in the love of God, knowing that even in the face of adversity, there is always a reason to hope, to dream, and to believe in a brighter tomorrow.

Your fellow pilgrim in hope,

Fr. Pascual