

January 31 - February 1, 2026
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Readings

First Reading

A Reading from Micah

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,
and you enduring foundations of the earth,
for the Lord has a case against his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

“With what shall I come before the Lord
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**
Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.

Second Reading

A Reading from First Corinthians

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar?
Where is the debater of this age?
Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?
For since, in the wisdom of God,
the world did not know God through wisdom,
God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation,
to save those who believe.

For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom,
but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles,
but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks,
Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.
For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom,
and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

God is why you are in Christ Jesus,
who became for us wisdom from God,
and righteousness and sanctification and redemption,
in order that, as it is written,
"Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

(pause)

Reader: **Word of God, word of Life.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Gospel

A Proclamation of the Holy Gospel According to Matthew

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain,
and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.
And he began to speak and taught them, saying:
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.
“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.
“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.
“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.
“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.
“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.
“Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

***Pastor:* The Gospel of the Lord.**

Congregation: Thanks be to God.