

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2023

Prayer of the Day

O God, you know the perilous choices we are prone to make that fall short of your desire for human faithfulness and obedience. Without you, our fragile nature cannot survive. Support us with your Word of truth, that we may grow in faith in the midst of our trials. Grant this, we pray, through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

¹Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. ²Hear, you mountains, the indictment of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has an indictment against his people, and he will contend with Israel. ³“O my people, what have I done to you? How have I wearied you? Answer me! ⁴For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. ⁵O my people, remember what Balak king of Moab devised, and what Balaam the son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD.” ⁶“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? ⁷Will 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?” ⁸He has told you, O man, 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?

Psalm 15

¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?*

who may abide upon your | holy hill?

²**Whoever leads a blameless life and does | what is right,***

who speaks the truth | from his heart.

³There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil | to his friend;*

he does not heap contempt up- | on his neighbor.

⁴**In his sight the wicked | is rejected,***

but he honors those who | fear the LORD.

⁵He has sworn to | do no wrong*

and does not take | back his word.

⁶**He does not give his money in | hope of gain,***

nor does he take a bribe a- | gainst the innocent.

⁷Whoever | does these things*

shall never be | overthrown.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment

of the discerning I will thwart.”²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom,²³but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles,²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.²⁵For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.²⁶For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth.²⁷But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;²⁸God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are,²⁹so that no human being might boast in the presence of God.³⁰And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,³¹so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

¹Seeing the crowds, {Jesus} went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. ⁵Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. ⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. ⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. ⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. ¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹²Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Lessons for Next Week

Isaiah 58:3-9a; Psalm 112:1-9; 1 Corinthians 2:1-12 [13-16]; Matthew 5:13-20