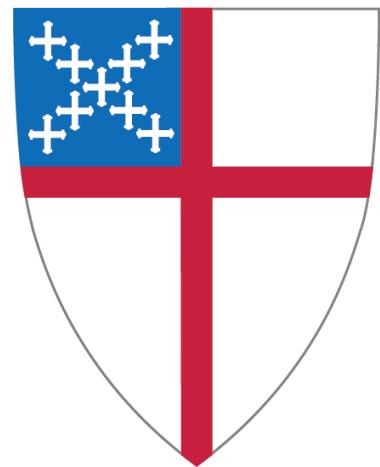


The Lessons Appointed for Use on the
**The Fourth Sunday
after the Epiphany**

Year A, RCL

February 1, 2026



(The Old Testament Reading)

A Reading from the Prophet Micah

Hear what the LORD says:

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

**Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with 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!
For 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.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of

Moab devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,

and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,

that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,

and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,

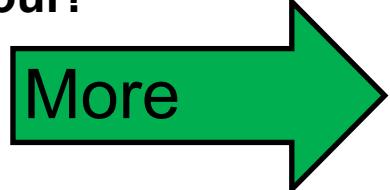
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,

with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,

the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”



More

**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?**

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

(People: *Thanks be to God.)*



(Psalm)

Psalm 15

Let's say it responsively by half verse.

LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *

who may abide upon your holy hill?

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

who speaks the truth from his heart.

There is no guile upon his tongue; he does no evil to

his friend; *

he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

In his sight the wicked is rejected, *

but he honors those who fear the LORD.

He has sworn to do no wrong *

and does not take back his word.

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

nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

Whoever does these things *

shall never be overthrown.



(The Epistle Reading)

A Reading from Paul's 1st letter to the 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. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where 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? For since, in the

wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand 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.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to



More

shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life 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.”

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

(People: Thanks be to God.)



Prayers of the People

Please stand, sit, or kneel as able for the prayers.

*Celebrant: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for
all people according to their needs.*

**Intercessor: Lord, you have called us to good work in
our various vocations. Give us courage that
we might never be ashamed of Christ and
him crucified, but be free to boast in the Lord
within our callings. Lord, in your mercy,**

All: Hear our prayer.

**Intercessor: God of all wisdom, you tell us plainly that
the Word of the cross is folly to those who
are perishing, but it is your power to all who
are being saved. Strengthen the faith of**

pastors and congregations, that they would not turn to man-made wisdom but boldly proclaim Christ and him crucified. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: Heavenly Father, you sent your Son as the Savior of the world, that all the families of the nations might worship before you. Bless the families of this congregation with your grace and protection, that they might remember you in both joy and trouble and worship before you forevermore. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.



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Intercessor: **O Lord of lords, you rescued your people from Egypt and confounded Balak, king of Moab, for their protection. Guide the decisions and actions of all earthly authorities, that your people may live in peace and quietness. Lord, in your mercy,**

All: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: **Almighty God, when Christ returns in his glory you promise to wipe away every tear from every eye. Comfort those who mourn. heal and deliver, according to your good and gracious will, those troubled by sickness and affliction including all we lift up to you now.**

(Please add your own intercessions or thanksgivings out loud or in the silence of your heart.)

Intercessor: **Lord, in your mercy,**

All: Hear our prayer.

Intercessor: **God of all righteousness, you command**

**us to be holy as you are holy, and you
sanctify us with your Son's body and blood.**

**Prepare the hearts of all who partake of the
Sacrament today, that they might repent of
their sin, trust in your promises and find their
righteousness in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,**

All: Hear our prayer.

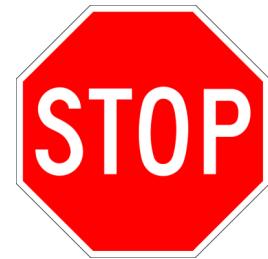
Intercessor: **Holy Father, you know the way of the**

**righteous. Preserve your people from walking
in the counsel of the wicked, from standing in
the way of sinners and from sitting in the seat**

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**of scoffers. By your grace, cause them to
delight in your Holy Word. Lord, in your
mercy,**

All: Hear our prayer.



The Celebrant concludes the Prayers:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha, which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids - blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

Now that day was a sabbath. So the Jews said to the man who had been cured, 'It is the sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your mat.' But he answered them, 'The man who made me well said to me, "Take up your mat and walk." ' They asked him, 'Who is the man who said to you, "Take it up and walk"?' Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there. Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, 'See, you have been made well! Do not sin any more, so that nothing worse happens to you.' The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well. Therefore the Jews started persecuting Jesus, because he was doing such things on the sabbath. But Jesus answered them, 'My Father is still working, and I also am working.' For this reason the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because he was not only breaking the sabbath, but was also calling God his own Father, thereby making himself equal to God.

Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, the Son can do nothing on his own, but only what he sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise. The Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing; and he will show him greater works than these, so that you will be astonished. Indeed, just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so also the Son gives life to whomsoever he wishes. The Father judges no one but has given all judgement to the Son, so that all may honor the Son just as they honor the Father. Anyone who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent him. Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has

eternal life, and does not come under judgement, but has passed from death to life.

‘Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgement, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be astonished at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice and will come out - those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

‘I can do nothing on my own. As I hear, I judge; and my judgement is just, because I seek to do not my own will but the will of him who sent me.

‘If I testify about myself, my testimony is not true. There is another who testifies on my behalf, and I know that his testimony to me is true. You sent messengers to John, and he testified to the truth. Not that I accept such human testimony, but I say these things so that you may be saved. He was a burning and shining lamp, and you were willing to rejoice for a while in his light. But I have a testimony greater than John’s. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent.

‘You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father’s name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?’

The Gospel of the Lord.



