

## The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

Preaching: Eric Chesney

Celebrant: Matt Burnett

Deacon: Mark Summers

### Collect of the Day:

O God, you know that we are set in the midst of many grave dangers, and because of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant that your strength and protection may support us in all dangers and carry us through every temptation; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## First Lesson: Micah 6:1-8

Hear what the Lord says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, 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.

“O my people, what have I done to you? How 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 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.”

“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 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?

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 37:1-11

- 1 Fret not yourself because of evildoers; \*  
**be not envious of wrongdoers!**
- 2 For they will soon fade like the grass \*  
**and wither like the green herb.**
- 3 Trust in the Lord, and do good; \*  
 **dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness.**
- 4 Delight yourself in the Lord, \*  
**and he will give you the desires of your heart.**
- 5 Commit your way to the Lord; \*  
**trust in him, and he will act.**
- 6 He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, \*  
**and your justice as the noonday.**
- 7 Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; \*  
**fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,  
over the man who carries out evil devices!**
- 8 Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath! \*  
**Fret not yourself; it tends only to evil.**
- 9 For the evildoers shall be cut off, \*  
**but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.**
- 10 In just a little while, the wicked will be no more; \*

**though you look carefully at his place, he will not be there.**

11 But the meek shall inherit the land \*  
**and delight themselves in abundant peace.**

*We sing together:* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be. World without end. Amen. Amen.

## Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

For 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. 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, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly 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 shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* Thanks be to God.

## **Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12**

Seeing the crowds, he went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him.

And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when others 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 so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of the Lord.

*People:* Praise to You, Lord Christ.