

FIRST READING: Micah 6:6–8

A reading from Micah.

- 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 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?

PSALM: Psalm 15

Cantor sings refrain. Assembly repeats refrain. Cantor sings verses. Assembly sings refrain at R.



- ¹LORD, who may dwell in your | tabernacle?
Who may abide upon your | holy hill?
- ²Those who lead a blameless life and do | what is right,
who speak the truth | from their heart; **R**
- ³they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil | to their friends;
they do not cast discredit up- | on a neighbor.
- ⁴In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who | fear the LORD.
They have sworn upon their health and do not take | back their word.
- ⁵They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes a- | gainst the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be | overthrown. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18–31

A reading from first Corinthians.

¹⁸For 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. 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, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

²⁶Consider 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. 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, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, ²⁹so that no one might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

GOSPEL: Matthew 5:1–12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. ²Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

³Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

⁸Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

¹⁰Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹Blessed are you when people 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 in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 5:1-12	The sermon on the mount
Monday	Isaiah 57:14-19	God will revive the lowly
Tuesday	Isaiah 51:12-16	Our God of comfort
Wednesday	Jeremiah 22:1-5, 15-16	Do what is just and right
Thursday	Matthew 9:10-13	Jesus speaks of mercy
Friday	James 3:13-18	Sowing in peace
Saturday	Psalms 15	Living on God's holy hill
Sunday	Matthew 5:13-20	Salt and light

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

The Lord has told you what he wants from you: to do what is right to other people, love being kind to others, and live humbly, obeying your God. *Micah 6:8* (NCV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

God, give us a hunger and a thirst for what is right, and bless us with the power to do good. Amen.

Epiphany Mealtime Prayer:

Christ our light, shine upon us. Refresh us through this meal to reflect your love to others. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May God bless you with a thirst for what is pure, right, and good. May your life become a great blessing to others. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a time when you felt foolish or weak. Have you ever experienced God at work through your weaknesses or failings?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:28. This tells us that God uses what the world thinks is “worthless, useless, and nothing at all” to show his power and to save people. What is this talking about?

DEVOTIONS:

Matthew 5:3-12 contains eight blessing statements of Jesus that are called the Beatitudes (from the Latin ‘beatus’). The Beatitudes sum up how God wants us to live our lives as his people, or the way he wants our “attitude to be”. In your home devotional times this week, talk about the statements one at a time. What do you think they mean? Which one do you find most challenging or difficult? In what ways have you experienced the blessings that Jesus talks about?

SERVICE:

The prophet Micah told God’s people that he wanted them to worship him not only with their words but also with their actions; he wanted them to show kindness, be merciful, and treat others in good and right ways. In what ways is your home a “Micah” home? How do others experience God’s kindness and mercy through you? How could you grow in this aspect of household life?

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

When we bless another person we are calling upon God to show his goodness and kindness to them, as well as demonstrating our own care and concern for them. There are three basic elements to a personal blessing – God’s name, words, and touch (e.g. a hand on a shoulder, or making the sign of the cross on their forehead or palm). Good times for using blessings in a home are mealtimes, bedtimes and at daily farewells (e.g. when children leave for school or parents leave for work). Practice blessing each other this coming week.