

# Today's Readings

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY  
JANUARY 29, 2012

## FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15–20

A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>15</sup>The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. <sup>16</sup>This is what you requested of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the LORD my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." <sup>17</sup>Then the LORD replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. <sup>18</sup>I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command.

<sup>19</sup>Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. <sup>20</sup>But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak — that prophet shall die."

## PSALM: Psalm 111

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



The fear of the LORD is the be - gin - ning of wis - dom.

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with <sup>1</sup>my whole heart,  
in the assembly of the upright, in the <sup>1</sup>congregation.

<sup>2</sup>Great are your <sup>1</sup>works, O LORD,  
pondered by all who de- <sup>1</sup>light in them.

<sup>3</sup>Majesty and splendor <sup>1</sup>mark your deeds,  
and your righteousness en- <sup>1</sup>dures forever.

<sup>4</sup>You cause your wonders to <sup>1</sup>be remembered;  
you are gracious and full <sup>1</sup>of compassion. **R**

<sup>5</sup>You give food to <sup>1</sup>those who fear you,  
remembering forev- <sup>1</sup>er your covenant.

<sup>6</sup>You have shown your people the power <sup>1</sup>of your works  
in giving them the lands <sup>1</sup>of the nations.

<sup>7</sup>The works of your hands are faithful- <sup>1</sup>ness and justice;  
all of your pre- <sup>1</sup>cepts are sure.

<sup>8</sup>They stand fast forev- <sup>1</sup>er and ever,  
because they are done in <sup>1</sup>truth and equity. **R**

<sup>9</sup>You sent redemption to your people  
and commanded your cove- <sup>1</sup>nant forever;  
holy and awesome <sup>1</sup>is your name.

<sup>10</sup>The fear of the LORD is the begin- <sup>1</sup>ning of wisdom;  
all who practice this have a good understanding.  
God's praise en- <sup>1</sup>dures forever. **R**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1–13**

A reading from first Corinthians.

Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. <sup>2</sup>Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; <sup>3</sup>but anyone who loves God is known by him.

<sup>4</sup>Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." <sup>5</sup>Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth — as in fact there are many gods and many lords — <sup>6</sup>yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

<sup>7</sup>It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. <sup>8</sup>Food will not bring us close to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. <sup>9</sup>But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. <sup>10</sup>For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? <sup>11</sup>So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. <sup>12</sup>But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. <sup>13</sup>Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

## **GOSPEL: Mark 1:21–28**

<sup>21</sup>They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup>They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup>Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup>and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." <sup>25</sup>But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup>And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup>They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching — with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup>At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

**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	Mark 1:21-28	Jesus casts out an evil spirit
Monday	Matthew 7:15-29	Jesus teaches with authority
Tuesday	Matthew 8:28-34	Jesus heals two men with demons
Wednesday	Luke 4:31-37	Jesus' authority over evil spirits
Thursday	John 5:16-27	Jesus' authority to judge
Friday	Acts 16:16-18	Paul casts out an evil spirit
Saturday	Psalms 35:1-10	God is our defender
Sunday	Mark 1:29-39	Jesus heals many people

**SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:**

Every bone in my body will shout: "No one is like the LORD!" You protect the helpless from those in power; you save the poor and needy from those who hurt them." **Psalm 35:10 (CEV)**

**SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:**

**A Prayer for the Week:**

Lord Jesus, please protect us from evil and teach us your ways.  
Amen.

**Mealtime Prayer:**

Lord, without your love we'd go unfed. Thank you for our daily bread.  
Amen.

**A Blessing to Give:**

May the Lord Jesus protect you from evil and teach you his ways.  
Amen.

### CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Share about a teacher you liked and respected. What did you learn from them?
- Read Mark 1:21-22. Why do you think people were amazed at Jesus' teachings?
- What do you find amazing about Jesus?
- What do you wish to learn from Jesus?

### DEVOTIONS:

Make it a focus of your home prayer time this week to pray for teachers, including those who teach others about Christ in seminaries, schools and churches.

### SERVICE:

Think of a teacher you are thankful for. Phone them with a word of encouragement, write them a letter, or send them a card.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

If you have a household member who is a student, share a household time of prayer and blessing. Here is a prayer you can use:

Heavenly Father, be with \_\_\_ in his/her studies. Keep \_\_\_ safe from anything that would harm him/her in body, mind or spirit. Help \_\_\_ to gain enjoyment from learning and to learn well. Help \_\_\_ to be happy at school and to have good friendships. Help \_\_\_ to show your love to others at school and to do what is right. And help \_\_\_ to remember that you are with him/her every day, whatever happens; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### From Martin Luther's *Small Catechism*:

The Gospel story from Mark shows Jesus' power over evil. In the Lord's Prayer we pray, "Deliver us from evil." This is what Martin Luther wrote about this prayer in his *Small Catechism*:

"In this prayer we sum up all our prayers. We are asking: 'Father, save us from every kind of evil – anything that could hurt our body or soul, our possessions or reputation. Be with us when we die. Be kind to us and take us from the troubles of this world to be with you in heaven.'"