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SERVICE OF THE WORD

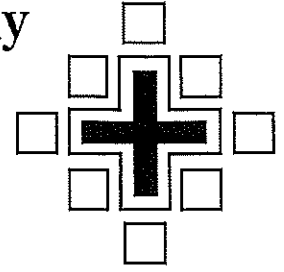
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Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

January 29, 2023



INTROIT *Ps. 1:1–5; antiphon: Ps. 1:6*

For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

Blessèd is the man who walks not in the counsel of the | wicked,*
nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of | scoffers;
but his delight is in the law | of the LORD,*
and on his law he meditates | day and night.

He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and
its leaf does not | wither.*

In all that he does, he | prospers.

The wicked | are not so,*

but are like chaff that the wind | drives away.

Therefore the wicked will not stand in the | judgment,*
nor sinners in the congregation of the | righteous.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

For the LORD knows the way of the | righteous,*
but the way of the wicked will | perish.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

GRADUAL *Ps. 117:1–2a; 96:8*

Praise the LORD, all | nations!*

Extol him, all | peoples!

For great is his steadfast | love toward us,*

and the faithfulness of the LORD endures for- | ever.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory | due his name;*

bring an offering, and come in- | to his courts!

DAILY READINGS

January 29: Zech. 8:1–23; 2 Tim. 1:1–18; 30: Zech. 9:1–17; 2 Tim. 2:1–26; 31: Zech. 10:1–11:3; 2 Tim. 3:1–17; February 1: Zech. 11:4–17; 2 Tim. 4:1–18; 2: Zech. 12:1–13:9; Titus 1:1–2:6; 3: Zech. 14:1–21; Titus 2:7–3:15; 4: Job 1:1–22; John 1:1–18.

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Old Testament Reading:

Micah 6:1-8

- ¹ Hear what the LORD says:
Arise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.
- ² 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.
- ³ "O my people, what have I done to you?
How have I wearied you? Answer me!
- ⁴ 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.
- ⁵ 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 saving 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?
- ⁷ 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?"
- ⁸ 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?

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸The 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 power-
ful, 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. ³⁰He
is the source of your life in Christ Jesus,
whom God made our wisdom and our right-
eousness and sanctification and redemp-
tion. ³¹Therefore, as it is written, "Let the
one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

Holy 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:

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

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

⁵"Blessed are the meek, for they shall
inherit the earth.

⁶"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷"Blessed are the merciful, for they shall
receive mercy.

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

⁹"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they
shall be called sons of God.

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

¹¹"Blessed 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."