

Sunday 1 February 2026
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading - Micah 6.6-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Micah.

What shall I bring,
as an offering, to the Lord,
as I bow down
before God most high?
Shall I bring burnt-offerings,
calves a year old,
thousands of rams,
rivers of oil,
or even my firstborn,
the fruit of my body,
for the transgressions of my soul?
No, for the offering
the Lord requires of us
is this:
to do justice,
to love kindness,
and to walk humbly
with our God.
This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - 1 Corinthians 1.21-27

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The wisdom of the world
did not
lead people to God.
Instead,
God has used
not the wisdom of the world,
but the foolishness
of our proclamation
to save
those who believe.
Greeks
demand wisdom,
and Hebrews
demand miraculous signs,
but we proclaim
Christ crucified.
The proclamation
of Christ crucified
is foolishness
to Greeks,
and a stumbling-block
to Hebrews.
But to those who are called -
both Hebrew and Greek -
the proclamation of Christ crucified
is both the wisdom of God,
and the power of God.
For God's foolishness
is wiser
than human wisdom;
just as God's weakness
is stronger
than human strength.

When you were called,
not many of you were wise
by human standards;
not many were powerful,
or 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.
This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - Matthew 5.1-12

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw
the great crowds
that followed him,
he went up on the mountainside,
and sat down.
His disciples gathered around him,
and he began to teach them, saying:
'Blessed are the poor, in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the humble, meek, and gentle,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will receive mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called
children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
for righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you
when people insult you,
and persecute you,
and condemn you, falsely, on my account,
for in the same way,
they persecuted
the prophets of old.
Rejoice, and be glad,
for your reward
is great in heaven.'
This is the Gospel of the Lord.