



INCARNATION  
ANGLICAN CHURCH



COME BE A  
FOOL AS WELL

*February 1, 2026*

# Order of Service

## Fourth Sunday After Epiphany

### WELCOME

Our service follows a liturgical tradition handed down to us since the time of the Apostles. Please follow along, and participate by reading the portions in **bold**. Some people choose to follow the ancient Jewish tradition (see *Ezekiel 9*) of making a “cross” sign at certain portions of the liturgy. Those wishing to do so, may, at portions marked with a  $\ddagger$  sign.

*Portions of our liturgy taken from the 1979 and 2019 Book of Common Prayer.*

As Christians in the Anglican Tradition, we observe the Church Calendar, along with the majority of God’s people around the world and throughout history. This calendar enhances our worship experience, by creating a seasonal rhythm of worship whereby we regularly reflect upon the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ, as well as the gift of the Holy Spirit.

During the Epiphany Season, we focus on the glorious revelation of Jesus Christ to the entire world, which is what the word epiphany means: a glorious revelation. The season always begins when we remember the wise men visiting Jesus, and follows with scripture readings that emphasize some sort of glorious revelation concerning Jesus.

### CHILDREN’S MINISTRY

**Do you or someone you know have young children that would need care during our services? We have a children’s ministry in place, and would love to help serve however possible.**

*All of our child care workers are Ministry Safe certified, and have had full background checks.*



### MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD

*Our service is divided in to two sections: the Ministry of the Word of God, and the Ministry of the Holy Communion. The first section primarily focuses on the scriptures, in light of all Jesus Christ has accomplished for us, as they are prayed, confessed, and explained.*

# OPENING PROCESSION SONG

*Congregants are encouraged to stand and face the cross as we process in with it*

## *Oh to be like thee*

- Reawaken Hymns version

[Verse 1]

Oh! to be like Thee, blessed Redeemer,  
This is my constant longing and prayer;  
Gladly I'll forfeit all of earth's treasures  
Jesus, Thy perfect likeness to wear.

[Chorus]

Oh! to be like Thee, oh! to be like Thee,  
Blessed Redeemer, pure as Thou art;  
Come in Thy sweetness, come in Thy fullness;  
Stamp Thine own image deep on my heart.

[verse 2]

Oh! to be like Thee, full of compassion,  
Loving, forgiving, tender and kind,  
Helping the helpless, cheering the fainting,  
Seeking the wand'ring sinner to find.

[verse 3]

Oh! to be like Thee, lowly in spirit,  
Holy and harmless, patient and brave;  
Meekly enduring cruel reproaches,  
Willing to suffer, others to save.

## WORDS OF WELCOME

*Minister:* Welcome to Incarnation, a community rooted in Christ and the traditions we have received since the time of the Apostles, Artistic in the way we live our lives and worship, and Welcoming to all whom the Lord brings in to our midst.

*Minister:* Behold, the Light shines in the darkness;

*People:* **And the darkness has not overcome it!** (John 1:5)

*Congregation May Be Seated*

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

*Celebrant & People:* Let us pray.

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*“Collect” refers to a form of prayer, used in liturgies since the third century, that Christians use when they “collect” together for worship.*

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*(Ruth 2:4)*

*People:* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant:* Let us pray

*Celebrant:* Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  $\dagger$

*People:* **Amen.**

*Congregation May Be Seated*

# PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Form VI (1979 BCP, Pg. 392)

*The Leader and People pray responsively. Please note we will segue straight from prayers of people to confession of sin.*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

**For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; and especially for President Donald Trump, Governor Gavin Newsom, Senator Adam Schiff, Congressman Kevin Kiley, Placer County Supervisor Bonnie Gore, and Roseville City Manager Dominic Casey.

**For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

**For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Edward Vaughan, our Archbishop for Bishop Josh and Mother Kendra, our priests; Phoenix and Jess our postulants and for the following ministers, churches, and ministries: *(pause for names)*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*(pause for names)*

Hear us, Lord;

**For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

*(The People may add their own thanksgivings)*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

**And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

**Who put their trust in you.**

And now, let us pray a Prayer for Social Justice:

**Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

*(Prayer for Social Justice Book of Common Prayer, p. 260)*

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **+** **Amen.**

# CONFESSiON OF SiN



*Minister:*

Let us now confess our sins against God and each other:

*Minister & People:*

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.**

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us;**

**that we may delight in your will,**

**and walk in your ways,**

**to the glory of your Name. Amen. +**



*Silent Prayer and Confession*

## ABSOLUTiON

*(John 20:23)*

*Absolution means “to grant forgiveness”. The words the minister shares here are Christ’s words of forgiveness to His children.*

*Minister here reads comfortable words from scripture, then says:*

May Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all + goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. + Amen.

## PRAYER FOR CHILDREN

## SiGN OF PEACE



*Minister:*

May the Peace of the Lord be with you.

*(John 20: 19, 21)*

*People:*

**And also with you.**

*Please greet one another during this time with a “Holy Fist Bump”.  
The traditional greeting is “Peace Be With You” with the response “And also with you...”*

## THE LESSONS:

### LESSON SONG

*Micah 6:8 -*

Maranatha Singers

He has shown thee (He has shown thee)

O man (O man)

What is good and what the Lord requires of thee

He has shown thee (He has shown thee)

O man (O man)

What is good and what the Lord requires of thee

But to do justly (But to do justly)

And to love mercy (And to love mercy)

And to walk humbly with thy God

3x

# FIRST LESSON

## Micah 6:1-8 NRSVue

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what 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 now what King Balak of  
Moab devised,

what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

What God Requires

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?

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 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?

*Reader:* The word of the Lord

*People:* Thanks be to God

# RESPONSE

## Psalm 15

1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
**who may abide upon your holy hill?**

2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
**who speaks the truth from his heart.**

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
**he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
**but he honors those who fear the Lord.**

5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
**and does not take back his word.**

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
**nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**

7 Whoever does these things \*  
**shall never be overthrown.**

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## EPISTLE READING

### 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 NRSVue

18:For 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. 19 For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards,[a] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 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; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, 29 so that no one[b] might boast in the presence of God. 30 In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in[c] the Lord.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

# GOSPEL HYMN

*Congregation may cross their forehead  $\ddagger$ , lips  $\ddagger$ , and then heart  $\ddagger$ , as a way of physically praying that the word of God would dwell in their minds, their words, and their hearts.*

**"Yours Are The Words of Life"**  
**Words, Ancient. Music, Fr. Rob Patterson**

The musical score consists of three staves of music. The top staff is in C major, 4/4 time, with notes A, A, E, E, B, B, G, G, D, D, C, C. The lyrics are: A - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia, yours are the words of life. The middle staff is in Am7, 4/4 time, with notes A, A, E, E, B, B, G, G, D, D, C, C. The lyrics are: A - le - lu - ia, a - le - lu - ia, yours are the words \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_. The bottom staff is in F major, 4/4 time, with notes F, F, C, C, G, G, D, D, A, A, E, E. The lyrics are: life \_\_\_\_\_.

## GOSPEL READING

*Reader:* Reading the Holy Gospel  $\ddagger$  of our Lord Jesus Christ  $\ddagger$ , according to Matthew chapter 5  $\ddagger$ .  
*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

### Matthew 5:1-12 NRSVue

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak 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 will be comforted.  
5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.  
6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.  
7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.  
8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.  
9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.  
10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.  
11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Reader:* The gospel of the Lord.

# THE MESSAGE

“Come be a Fool as Well”

Becky Schriber

# Apostles' Creed

(2nd Century)

The Apostles' Creed is one of the earliest known Christian confessions. In the early church, it served as a litmus test to help determine what true Christian belief entailed. Anyone wanting to be baptized and become a member of the church needed to be able to confess and believe this creed. Together with the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed has helped establish the boundaries that define "Christian" and unify followers of Christ for almost 2000 years.

**Minister:** Followers of Christ, what do you believe?

**Minister & People:**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;

He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again;

He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body +, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

*\*\*"Catholic" means "universal" or "true". It does not refer to a particular denomination or tradition.*



# MINISTRY OF HOLY COMMUNION

*The second section of our service, **The Ministry of The Holy Communion**, focuses on the sacrifices and praise that we, and all the saints throughout history, have given to God in response to all He has done for us through His Son, Jesus Christ. Many of these words have been sung or recited by Christ followers around the world for over 1800 years!*



## OFFERING OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

*Christ followers support the church's mission and ministry through offering a sacrificial portion of our resources—time, talents, possessions—as an act of faith and gratitude in response to God's grace. This pattern presents itself to us throughout the scriptures. (See, for example, Deuteronomy 26; Proverbs 3: 8,9; Malachi 3:10) For many at Incarnation, it is easier to give online.*

*To give online, please visit [www.IncarnationMission.Org](http://www.IncarnationMission.Org), and click on "Donate".*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Minister & People: Through Christ may we continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name. May we not neglect to do good and to share what we have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. Amen.*

*(-Based on Hebrews 13:15, 16)*

# OFFERING SONG

## God's Own Fool -Michael Card

### Chorus

When we in our foolishness thought we were wise  
    He played the fool and He opened our eyes  
When we in our weakness believed we were strong  
    He became helpless to show we were wrong  
            And so we follow God's own fool  
            For only the foolish can tell  
Believe the unbelievable come be a fool as well

### Verse 1

It seems I've imagined Him all of my life  
    As the wisest of all of mankind  
But if God's holy wisdom is foolish to men  
    He must have seemed out of His mind  
            For even His family said He was mad  
            And the priests said a demon's to blame  
But God in the form of this angry young man  
    Could not have seemed perfectly sane  
When we in our foolishness thought we were wise  
    He played the fool and He opened our eyes  
When we in our weakness believed we were strong  
    He became helpless to show we were wrong

### Verse 2

So come lose your life for a carpenter's Son  
    For a madman who died for a dream  
            Then you'll have the faith  
            His first followers had  
            And you'll feel the weight of the beam  
So surrender the hunger to say you must know  
    Have the courage to say I believe  
    For the power of paradox opens your eyes  
            And blinds those who say they can see

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here be-low;  
 Praise him a- bove, ye heav'ly host; Praise Father, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## CLOSING OFFERTORY PRAYER

*Celebrant* All things come of thee, O Lord,  
*People* **And of thine own have we given thee.**  
 -1 CHRONICLES 29:11, 14

*People may be seated or remain standing*

## DEACON'S MASS SCRIPTURE READING

53 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. 54 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day. 55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. 56 Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. (John 6:53-56)

## THE LORDS PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Minister & People:*

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

*Please sit or kneel*

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

*People:* We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies.

We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy.

Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us.

Amen.

*Minister:* Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

*John 1:29, Revelation 19:9*

*You May Be Seated*

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE EUCHARIST

The Eucharistic elements on the altar are open to all who would consider themselves baptized Christians, regardless of tradition or background. There are multiple ways to participate:

- You can take the host and dip it in the cup (This is called intinction) or you may partake of only the wafer (This is called communion in one kind. We believe the body and blood of Christ will still manifest in a mystical manner).
- You may also drink from the cup of wine, but if you do, please wait near the end of the communion line.
- There is also a second chalice with grape juice in it for those unable to partake of the wine.
- If you or your children would like to come forward to witness the table, but not partake, you are welcome to do so. Just cross your arms, and the minister will pray a blessing over you.

You don't have to know all the answers, nor do you need "perfect" faith. God has faithfully met people throughout the ages by way of these words and elements. Whatever struggles or doubts you may have, He will faithfully meet you through these means of grace. If you find yourself unsure of your standing with God, please take advantage of this time to consider all God has done for you through Jesus Christ.

## Prayer For Spiritual Communion (For those watching Online):

Dear Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, together with all your faithful people gathered around every altar of your Church, and I embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

*The ministers receive the Sacraments, and then immediately deliver it to the people with these words:*

The Body of Christ, the bread of Heaven **Amen.**  $\ddagger$   
The Cup of Christ, the blood of Salvation **Amen.**  $\ddagger$

*After Communion, the Minister says:*

Let us pray.

*Minister and People:*

**Heavenly Father,**

We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.

**Amen**

*If you are able, please stand for the singing of the Gloria Patri.*

The *Gloria Patri* contains the oldest known words, outside of scripture, that followers of Christ have sung or recited, for over 1900 years. Traditionally, when the Trinitarian Formula (Father, Son, and Holy Ghost) is used, worshippers either bow their heads or make the sign of the cross.

### ***Gloria Patri***

Source unknown, 2nd century

HENRY W. GREATOREX



Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the

Ho - ly Ghost: as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now and

ev - er shall be, world with-out end. A - men, A - men.

*Please Be Seated*

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CLOSING BLESSING**

*Minister:* May the peace of God which passes all understanding keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  $\dagger$  be among us, and remain with us always.

*People:* **Amen.**

# CLOSING SONG

## *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus*

### Verse 1

I have decided to follow Jesus  
I have decided to follow Jesus  
I have decided to follow Jesus  
No turning back no turning back

### Verse 2

The world behind me the cross before me  
The world behind me the cross before me  
The world behind me the cross before me  
No turning back no turning back

### Verse 3

Though none go with me I still will follow  
Though none go with me I still will follow  
Though none go with me I still will follow  
No turning back no turning back

### Verse 4

Will you decide now to follow Jesus  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus  
No turning back no turning back

## DISMISSAL

*Minister:* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*Anyone wanting prayer or anointing are encouraged to come to the altar at the close of service*

# FELLOWSHIP & SERVICE

**Thursday Morning Prayer.** Join us to pray the Daily Office at the Fig Tree (217 Vernon St) at 9:30 am.

## Jespers

Evening prayer led by Jessica Watanabe in Rocklin (temporarily in Rancho Cordova). It will be on the 2nd and 4th **Thursdays** at 6:30. Appetizers will be served. For more information please contact Jessica.

916-642-5184 [JessicaKcullen@gmail.com](mailto:JessicaKcullen@gmail.com)

Next Date: Feb 12 and 26

## Congregational Meeting

We will be having a congregational Meeting **Sunday February 22, 11am at the Fig Tree.** We will be having a short morning prayer service, our congregational meeting and Lunch. This will be in lieu of our regular service. We will be going over the budget and voting in a new vestry member. Please join us!

## **ASH WEDNESDAY**

We are doing something new this year for Ash Wednesday. Join us at Bridgeway church's first ever Ash Wednesday Service to hear Anglican Bishop N.T. Wright speak.

Wednesday, February 18 At 6:30 PM.

For more information please reach out to Bishop Josh.

## Serve Monday Lunch at First UMC

Join Pastor Phoenix in serving the homeless at the Monday noon lunch at First UMC church. Contact Phoenix if you would like more information.

## Socks and coats

We are collecting donations of new socks and gently used coats to be handed out at the First UMC's Monday lunch. You can give them to Rachel

## My Mother's Voice

We are collecting donations for "My Mother's Voice" They are most in need of canned and non perishable food specifically, canned beans, rice, canned tomatoes, seasonings, flour, Maseca (corn flour), peanut/almond butter, new socks (all sizes) and hairbrushes. If you have any questions please contact Elena.

## **SLACK**

We are moving church communications to the Slack app. If you have any questions or would like to be added to the conversations, please contact Rachel.



Episcopal Free Fellowship  
of America

Rt. Rev. Joshua Lickter (he/him), Bishop/Rector  
Rev. Kendra Dickinson (she/her), Asst. Priest  
Larissa Roe (she/her), Sr Warden  
Rachel Lickter (her/she), Admin  
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Meeting at Bethel Lutheran Church  
1050 Douglas Blvd  
Roseville, CA 95678  
11:00 AM

## OLD TESTAMENT (1)

### Micah 6:1-8 NRSVue

Hear what the Lord says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the Lord,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the Lord has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

3 “O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what 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 now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the Lord.”

What God Requires

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?”

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 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?

*Reader:* The word of the Lord

*People:* **Thanks be to God**

## PSALM. (2)

### Psalm 15

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
**who may abide upon your holy hill?**
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
**who speaks the truth from his heart.**
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;  
he does no evil to his friend; \*  
**he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.**
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
**but he honors those who fear the Lord.**
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
**and does not take back his word.**
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
**nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.**
- 7 Whoever does these things \*  
**shall never be overthrown.**

## NEW TESTAMENT (3)

### 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 NRSVue

18:For 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. 19 For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

20 Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. 22 For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25 For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

26 Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards,[a] not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27 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; 28 God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are, 29 so that no one[b] might boast in the presence of God. 30 In contrast, God is why you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31 in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in[c] the Lord.”

Lector: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

## GOSPEL

*Reader:* Reading the Holy Gospel † of our Lord Jesus Christ †,  
according to Matthew chapter 5 †.

*People:* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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

1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. 2 And he began to speak 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 will be comforted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

11 “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. 12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

*Reader:* The gospel of the Lord.

*Congregation:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ!**