

## YEAR A, EPIPHANY 4, SUNDAY: MASS

### For use with the First Lesson

Adapted from *The Vocabulary of the Church* (1960):

Ba'lak	BAY-lack
Ba'laam	BAY-luhm
Be'or	BEE-or
Shit'tim	SHIT'-tim

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Book of Micah**

Hear what the LORD says: Arise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth; for the LORD has a controversy with his people, and he will contend with Israel. “O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me! For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, and redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam. O my people, remember what Ba'lak king of Moab devised, and what Ba'laam the son of Be'or answered him, and what happened

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MICAH 6:1–8; PSALM 37:1–6; 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18–31\*; MATTHEW 5:1–12

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from Shit'tim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.” “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 first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has showed 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?

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

## **Psalm 37:1–6**

*The Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 37, verses 1 through 6, found in the red Prayer Book on page 633.

*The Reader repeats the above information several times.*

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; \*  
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
  
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, \*  
and like the green grass fade away.

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- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; \*  
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, \*  
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust  
in him, \*  
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the  
light \*  
and your just dealing as the noonday.

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the**

**First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the cleverness of the clever I will thwart." Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in

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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. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For consider your call, brethren; not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were 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, God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, whom God made our wisdom, our righteousness and sanctification and redemption; therefore, as it is written, “Let him who boasts, boast of the Lord.”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

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## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader* Alleluia.

*People* Alleluia.

*Reader* Your love, O Lord, for ever will I sing; \*  
from age to age my mouth will proclaim  
your faithfulness.

*People* Alleluia.

*The Reader returns to his or her seat.*

## **The Holy Gospel**

*The Minister says* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Minister* ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord  
Jesus Christ according to  
Matthew.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain,  
and when he sat down his disciples came to him. And  
he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:  
“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the  
kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for  
they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they

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shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.

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