

YEAR B, EPIPHANY 4, SUNDAY: MASS

The First Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from Deuteronomy

Moses summoned all Israel and said to them: “The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren—him you shall heed—just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’ And the LORD said to me, ‘They have rightly said all that they have spoken. I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him. But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’ ”

The Reader concludes

The Word of the Lord.

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DEUTERONOMY 18:15–20; PSALM 111; 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1–13*; MARK 1:21–28

WE INCLUDE 1 CORINTHIANS 8:1A, THE BEGINNING OF PAUL’S WORDS ABOUT FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS.

Psalm 111

The Reader says

Please join me in reading Psalm 111, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 754.

The Reader repeats the above information several times.

- 1 Hallelujah!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole
heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the
congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be
remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.

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- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and
justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of
wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good
understanding;
his praise endures for ever.

Please turn the page for the Second Lesson.

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The Second Lesson. The Reader begins

A Reading from the

First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” “Knowledge” puffs up, but love builds up. If any one imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. But if one loves God, one is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “an idol has no real existence,” and that “there is no God but one.” For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many “gods” and many “lords”—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. However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through being hitherto accustomed to idols, eat food as really offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an

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idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

The Reader concludes *The Word of the Lord.*

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.

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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 Mark.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

And Jesus—and Andrew, Simon, James, and John—
went into Caper'na-um; and immediately on the
sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. And
they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught
them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes.
And immediately there was in their synagogue a man
with an unclean spirit; 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.” But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent, and
come out of him!” And the unclean spirit, convulsing
him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him.
And they were all amazed, so that they questioned
among themselves, saying, “What is this? A new
teaching! With authority he commands even the
unclean spirits, and they obey him.” And at once his

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fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Minister says The Gospel of the Lord.

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