

Lectionary

You are invited to follow the first two readings while seated, and as is the custom, to just listen, standing if possible, as the Holy Gospel is proclaimed.

Midweek 4th February 2026 Epiphany 4

The Collect

Almighty God, by whose grace alone we are accepted and called to your service: strengthen us by your Holy Spirit and make us worthy of our calling; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

First reading: 2 Samuel 24:2,9-17

A reading from the 2nd book of Samuel.

So the king said to Joab and the commanders of the army, who were with him, 'Go through all the tribes of Israel, from Dan to Beer-sheba, and take a census of the people, so that I may know how many there are.' Joab reported to the king the number of those who had been recorded: in Israel there were eight hundred thousand soldiers able to draw the sword, and those of Judah were five hundred thousand. But afterwards, David was stricken to the heart because he had numbered the people. David said to the Lord, 'I have sinned greatly in what I have done. But now, O Lord, I pray you, take away the guilt of your servant; for I have done very foolishly.' When David rose in the morning, the word of the Lord came to the prophet Gad, David's seer, saying, 'Go and say to David: Thus says the Lord: Three things I offer you; choose one of them, and I will do it to you.' So Gad came to David and told him; he asked him, 'Shall three years of famine come to you on your land? Or will you flee for three months before your foes while they pursue you? Or shall there be three days' pestilence in your land? Now consider, and decide what answer I shall return to the one who sent me.' Then David said to Gad, 'I am in great distress; let us fall into the hand of the Lord, for his mercy is great; but let me not fall into human hands.' So the Lord sent a pestilence on Israel from that morning until the appointed time; and seventy thousand of the people died, from Dan to Beer-sheba. But when the angel stretched out his hand towards Jerusalem to destroy it, the Lord relented concerning the evil, and said to the angel who was bringing destruction among the people, 'It is enough; now stay your hand.' The angel of the Lord was then by the threshing-floor of Araunah the Jebusite. When David saw the angel who was destroying the people, he said to the Lord, 'I alone have sinned, and I alone have done wickedly; but these sheep, what have they done? Let your hand, I pray, be against me and against my father's house.'

This is the word of the Lord,
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Psalm 32:1-8

1. Happy the one whose transgression is forgiven, • and whose sin is covered.
2. Happy the one to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, • and in whose spirit there is no guile.
3. For I held my tongue; • my bones wasted away through my groaning all the day long.
4. Your hand was heavy upon me day and night; • my moisture was dried up like the drought in summer.
5. Then I acknowledged my sin to you • and my iniquity I did not hide.
6. I said, 'I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,' • and you forgave the guilt of my sin.
7. Therefore let all the faithful make their prayers to you in time of trouble; • in the great water flood, it shall not reach them.
8. You are a place for me to hide in; you preserve me from trouble; • you surround me with songs of deliverance.

This is the word of the Lord,
All: **Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel: Mark 6:1-6a

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

according to Mark.

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Post Communion Prayer

God of truth, we have seen with our eyes and touched with our hands the bread of life: strengthen our faith that we may grow in love for you and for each other;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**