

Epiphany 4

February 1, 2026

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Scriptures for today remind us of what God requires of his people. Both Micah and the psalmist communicate God's Word to "walk" humbly and blamelessly. This kind of devoted walking may seem like foolishness to those who do not believe in Christ, but for us who walk in the way of the Lord, it is life-giving, joyfully accompanied walking with the One who loves us most.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

Micah 6:1-8

The Life of Discipleship

The prophet Micah reminded Israel what God had done for them by bringing them out of Egypt. They continued to be His holy people, chosen and beloved. Yet with this relationship came a call to do that which God commanded — such as showing love, working for justice, and showing deep humility and humbleness.

Psalm 15

God's People Shall Never Be Moved

The psalmist asserted that by following the ways of God in everyday life, Israel would abide in His holy tent on Mount Zion. It isn't always easy to do the right thing, but it is in righteousness that God makes us as immovable as his holy hill.

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

The Word of the Cross is the Power of God

St. Paul told the saints in Corinth that those who would call them fools for believing in Christ are the ones who are perishing. Wisdom is an elusive and misunderstood concept that is hidden under the scandal of the cross. Through Jesus, God shows the world what true wisdom is: lowliness, weakness, and obscurity.

Matthew 5:1-12

True Blessedness

The gospel writer recounted Jesus' words in the Beatitudes, saying that which is blessed in God's kingdom is not what one might expect. Happiness and joy come from situations that are difficult — but they are joyous because it is exactly in those circumstances that Christ is with us most fully. The revolutionary realities of life in the kingdom of God are often beyond what we are able to understand.

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Epiphany:

- Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed for this Sunday in Epiphany.
- When God does something for humanity, it frequently seems to be counterintuitive! Consider introducing the word "paradox" to the young people in your congregation. How does God take what we think we know and turn it upside down to make it completely unexpected?
- "Walking" is a Biblical metaphor that points to our obedience to God. Are there different ways that people walk through life?

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Rejoice, Friends, and Be Delighted	---	---	---	---	---	web
Rise Up, O Saints of God	383	---	---	669	---	---
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee	551	---	803	836	36	36
Blest Are They	---	764	---	728	---	---
Every Time I Feel the Spirit	---	---	---	---	---	web
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less	294	---	575	596	192	192
The Lord's My Shepherd	451	---	710	778	209	209
O God of Mercy, God of Light	425	---	852	714	---	---
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
Lord, Speak to Us That We May Speak	403	---	---	676	267	267

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles:

Mercy
(CCLI# 7000689)
You Delight in Showing Mercy
(CCLI# 7051635)
Trading My Sorrows
(CCLI# 2574653)
One Day
(CCLI# 2725646)
Lord, I Need You
(CCLI# 5925687)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.