

**REFLECTION:** I remember a time when a certain experience I went through helped me see things differently... I remember... I remember...

**“Rejoice and be Glad, for your Reward will be Great in Heaven.”**

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Cycle A | February 1, 2026



#### OUR FATHER

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us:  
**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.**

**R. For the kingdom, the power and the  
glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

#### LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
**have mercy on us.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:  
**grant us peace.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

#### COMMUNION

#### CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:

God,

Give us your comfort when we stress out. Give us your mercy when we find it hard to forgive ourselves and others. Give us your peace when we have the urge to act out. Give us your kingdom, where we belong to you and each other.

We ask this through Jesus, our Savior. **R. Amen.**

#### WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

Give light to our eyes, O Lord,  
that we may be able to see your image  
in each other, even amid the darkness  
of our sins.

Grant that we see your face even in the people who have harmed us. Grant that those who have been hurt by our crimes have compassion on us, as you did towards those who drove the nails into your hands and feet and pierced your side.

We beseech you, merciful Savior. Give us your very own loving heart. That we may be able to say, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they do," and pierce our conscience with the thorn of repentance, so that our eyes may be opened, and with our eyes opened, may we see you when we look at each other.

**We ask this in the holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**Prayer by Nick, who is in a California State Prison.**

#### PENITENTIAL RITE

**Lord, have mercy.  
Christ, have mercy.  
Lord, have mercy.**

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and bring us to everlasting life.

**R. Amen.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:  
God,  
In every moment of life, you are with us. Help us rejoice and be glad in every moment of our lives.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

#### SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: "I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**R. And with your spirit.**



# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility; perhaps you may be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger. But I will leave as a remnant in your midst a people humble and lowly, who shall take refuge in the name of the LORD: the remnant of Israel. They shall do no wrong and speak no lies; nor shall there be found in their mouths a deceitful tongue; they shall pasture and couch their flocks with none to disturb them.

The Word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:26-31

Consider your own calling, brothers and sisters. Not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. Rather, God chose the foolish of the world to shame the wise, and God chose the weak of the world to shame the strong, and God chose the lowly and despised of the world, those who count for nothing, to reduce to nothing those who are something, so that no human being might boast before God. It is due to him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, as well as righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord."

The Word of the Lord.

**R. Thanks be to God.**

## Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10

### R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The LORD keeps faith forever, secures justice for the oppressed, gives food to the hungry.

The LORD sets captives free.

### R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The LORD gives sight to the blind; the LORD raises up those who were bowed down.

The LORD loves the just; the LORD protects strangers.

### R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

The fatherless and the widow the LORD sustains,

but the way of the wicked he thwarts.

The LORD shall reign forever; your God, O Zion, through all generations.

Alleluia.

### R. Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!

## Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the land. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

# MEDITATION: SEE DIFFERENTLY

(from the eyes of jesus today)

jesus saying to jaime, juan, and santiago when will you ever understand that to be my follower you need to think and see differently? that you need to live the beatitudes?

the black limousine pulled up to the curb the celebrities exited to the cheers of the mob her long gown and his black suit were immaculate

someone came over to get an autograph her expression shows her disgust she could not be bothered the police were keeping the crowds in check

they were ushered into the air-conditioned banquet hall someone caught up to them trying to make small talk he increases his pace why won't people leave him alone?

they finally make it to their table with linens and the flowers then someone who was recently released from prison with tattoos all over his arms pours the water but slips and some of the water spills on her glittered gown she is incensed and yells at him

in his ex-gangster english he says again and again i am so sorry please forgive him

he hands her some napkins but he is thinking to himself he cannot get fired because he has a baby girl what is going to happen if he loses his job?

but she couldn't take it any longer she sits down again another recently released prisoner pours a fine wine worth more than what this ex-gangster earns in one month

both of them look around them to see who is staring at them they seem so filled up with themselves the light reflected off her diamonds

another waiter brings out the first course he takes a bite and almost spits it out his palate is only used to the best and this food does not measure up

the huge screen lights up showing both of them in africa holding malnourished orphans the dinner crowd begins to murmur what a charitable couple announcing in the video how much money they are donating to orphans

she excuses herself wanders to the restroom she glances at herself in the mirror the gown mostly dry the attendant hands her a towel

she dries away her sweat realizing how important it is to be her best reflecting how difficult her life is

she throws her towel down time to get back after arranging herself wondering if it was worth all the time

she spent preparing herself

the food was brought out one after the other glass after glass of wine small talk servant after servant with sweat pouring down their faces

the men who were serving the food had only eaten prison food for over 10 years

she needed coffee and spoke disdainfully at another waiter demanding more coffee

it was now time for the awards the crowd was silent this couple was receiving the highest award possible of their church for charity the engraved marble figure was impressive

the announcer standing climbing the stairs to the podium but suddenly three chauffeurs with their names pinned to their jackets jaime, juan, and santiago stood before the microphone

they begin to say you do not know us do not be alarmed we are not terrorists it is just we want to give our own special award we represent all the workers who make possible this banquet we invite juan from guatemala to please come forward

all night he had been so worried if he was going to be fired so his first reaction was fear when he heard his name

the announcer climbed to the stage and says

friends this waiter receives our workers' award all night long he has taken the abuse of privileged diners in the eyes of god he wins

there is nothing phony or prestigious about him

we present him with this key which fits the door to enter the reign of god

no one applauded everyone was in shock at first but suddenly all the servants the waiters the dishwashers the chauffeurs begin to applaud louder and louder the three chauffeurs handing juan his award

something happened in that banquet hall somehow those seated stood up and also applauded

they looked back at the couple the hypocrisy contained in their bearing darkened the surroundings in contrast to the light flowing out of juan flowing out of all those who daily do such lowly jobs who have no fine jewelry no fancy clothes blessed are the poor they will receive the kingdom

the music began the workers danced joyfully celebrating how there is a dignity in what they do they could feel the life of god also celebrating with them that they were really his favorite ones so different from how the world judges

juan left the banquet hall happy he was not going to lose his job and feeling grateful that he had received a generous award the beatitudes were alive this very night

