

JANUARY 29, 2017  
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER  
EPIPHANY



*God's ways are not our ways.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 5:1-12</b>	<b>The sermon on the mount</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Isaiah 57:14-19</b>	<b>God will revive the lowly</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Micah 6:1-8</b>	<b>True obedience</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 1:18-31</b>	<b>Message of the cross</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Matthew 9:10-13</b>	<b>Jesus speaks of mercy</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>James 3:13-18</b>	<b>Sowing in peace</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 15</b>	<b>Living on God's holy hill</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>Matthew 5:13-20</b>	<b>Salt and light</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Even when God is foolish, he is wiser than everyone else, and even when God is weak, he is stronger than everyone else. **1 Corinthians 1:25 (CEV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Holy God, we thank you for your goodness that blesses our lives through Christ with kindness, mercy, and humility. Amen.

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

God, you have blessed us with daily bread. Bless us also with gratitude, generosity, and compassion for others. Amen.

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May God bless you with a thirst for what is pure, right, and good. May the Lord make your life a blessing to others.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with  
Your Love*



### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home or small group:

- Tell about a time when you felt foolish or weak. Have you ever experienced God at work in your weaknesses or failings? Explain your answer.
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:28. This tells us that God uses what the world thinks is “worthless, useless, and nothing at all” to show God’s power and save us. How do these words challenge you in your daily way of life?
- How is it a blessing that God’s ways are not our ways?

### DEVOTIONS



Matthew 5:3-12 contains eight blessing statements of Jesus that are called the Beatitudes. The Beatitudes describe God’s undeserved kindness. These blessings also identify the characteristics of Jesus’ disciples, including us today. How do the Beatitudes describe the ways of God that give us a new way of life? How have you experienced the blessings Jesus names? Conclude with a prayer of thanksgiving for the many blessings of God.

### SERVICE



Read Micah 6:1-8. This passage expects us to worship God not only with words but also with actions. God wants us to show kindness, mercy, and humility. In what ways is your home a “Micah” home? Pay attention to how others experience God’s kindness and mercy through you. Make a copy of Micah 6:8 and display it in a visible place in your home. Consider memorizing this verse as well.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



When we bless another person we are calling on God to show God’s goodness and kindness to them, as well as demonstrating our own care and concern. There are three basic elements to a personal blessing—God’s name, words, and touch (e.g., a hand on a shoulder, or making the sign of the cross on the forehead or palm). Blessings can be used at mealtimes, bedtimes, and at farewells (e.g., when a child goes to school or someone leaves on a trip). Use this week’s “A Blessing to Give” with others. You can also use a telephone call or other form of social media to offer a blessing.



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)