

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen

FIRST READING A reading from the prophet Zephaniah
(2:3, 3:12-13)

Seek the Lord
all you, the humble of the earth,
who obey his commands.
Seek integrity,
seek humility:
you may perhaps find shelter
on the day of the anger of the Lord.

In your midst I will leave
a humble and lowly people,
and those who are left in Israel will seek refuge in the
name of the Lord.
They will do no wrong,
will tell no lies;
and the perjured tongue will no longer
be found in their mouths.
But they will be able to graze and rest
with no one to disturb them.
The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 145:7-10. R. Mt 5:3)

**R. How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

It is the Lord who keeps faith for ever,
who is just to those who are oppressed.
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
the Lord, who sets prisoners free. **R.**

It is the Lord who gives sight to the blind,
who raises up those who are bowed down,
the Lord, who protects the stranger
and upholds the widow and orphan. **R.**

It is the Lord who loves the just
but thwarts the path of the wicked.
The Lord will reign for ever,
Zion's God, from age to age. **R.**

SECOND READING A reading from the first letter of St
Paul to the Corinthians (1:26-31)

Take yourselves, brothers, at the time when you were
called: how many of you were wise in the ordinary sense
of the word, how many were influential people, or came
from noble families? No, it was to shame the wise that
God chose what is foolish by human reckoning, and to
shame what is strong that he chose what is weak by
human reckoning; those whom the world thinks
common and contemptible are the ones that God has
chosen – those who are nothing at all to show up those
who are everything. The human race has nothing to
boast about to God, but you, God has made members of
Christ Jesus and by God's doing he has become our
wisdom, and our virtue, and our holiness, and our
freedom. As scripture says: if anyone wants to boast, let
him boast about the Lord. **The word of the Lord.**

Gospel Acclamation (Mt 11:25)

R. Alleluia, alleluia! Blessed are you, Father Lord of
heaven and earth, for revealing the mysteries of
the kingdom to mere children. **R. Alleluia!**



THE HOLY GOSPEL A reading from the holy Gospel
according to Matthew (5:1-12)

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up the hill. There he
sat down and was joined by his disciples. Then he
began to speak. This is what he taught them:

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR A)

'How happy are the poor in spirit:
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Happy the gentle:
they shall have the earth for their heritage.
Happy those who mourn:
they shall be comforted.
Happy those who hunger and thirst for what is
right: they shall be satisfied.
Happy the merciful:
they shall have mercy shown them.
Happy the pure in heart:
they shall see God.
Happy the peacemakers:
they shall be called sons of God.
Happy those who are persecuted in the cause of
right: theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Happy are you when people abuse you and persecute
you and speak all kinds of calumny against you on my
account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be
great in heaven.' **The Gospel of the Lord.**

The Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
(all bow until man)
and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin
Mary, and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and
glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and
the life of the world to come. Amen**

Candlemas – 2nd of February



Candlemas commemorates the ritual purification of Mary, 40 days after the birth of her son Jesus. This day also marks the ritual presentation of the baby Jesus to God in the Temple at Jerusalem. The Gospel of Luke says that Jesus was met by Anna and Simeon. Simeon held the baby Jesus and called him a Light to the World.

Ritual purification stems back to Jewish blood traditions that women were considered ritually unclean after the birth of a child. For 40 days for a boy, and 60 days for a girl, women weren't allowed to worship in the temple. At the end of this time, women were brought to the Temple or Synagogue to be purified. After the ceremony women were allowed to take part in religious services again.

The festival is called Candlemas because this was the day that all the Church's candles for the year were blessed. In some cultures, on Candlemas night, many people place lighted candles in their windows at home.

Like some other Christian festivals, Candlemas draws some of its elements from Paganism. In pre-Christian times, it was the festival of light. This ancient festival marked the half way point between the winter solstice (shortest day) and the spring equinox. Some people lit candles to scare away evil spirits on the dark winter nights. People believed that Candlemas predicted the weather for the rest of the winter. Good weather was a sign that winter had still longer to run bad that it was nearly over etc.

Any Christmas decorations not taken down by Twelfth Night (January 5th) should be left up until Candlemas Day and then taken down.