

Through the prophet Micah, God reminds his people of his faithfulness to their forebears, and promises to continue in this faithfulness and love.

### **A reading from the Book of the Prophet Micah: 6:1-8**

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth;  
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

"O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

"With what shall I come before the LORD,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*

**Psalm 15** (*8am spoken, 10am sung*)

<sup>1</sup> LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? \*  
    who may abide upon your holy hill?

<sup>2</sup> Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, \*  
    who speaks the truth from his heart.

<sup>3</sup> There is no guile upon his tongue;  
    he does no evil to his friend; \*  
    he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

<sup>4</sup> In his sight the wicked is rejected, \*  
    but he honors those who fear the LORD.

<sup>5</sup> He has sworn to do no wrong \*  
    and does not take back his word.

<sup>6</sup> He does not give his money in hope of gain, \*  
    nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

<sup>7</sup> Whoever does these things \*  
    shall never be overthrown.

God is not impressed with clever intellectual arguments and people are not persuaded by convincing proofs. It is the simple witness of faith that opens hearts to God's call.

**A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the  
Corinthians: 1:18-31**

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God

and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, so that no one might boast in the presence of God. He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

*Reader: The Word of the Lord.*