

## Scriptures: February 1, 2026

**First Reading** 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 *The Message*

*The wisdom and power of God*

One: The Message that points to Christ on the Cross seems like sheer silliness to those hellbent on destruction, but for those on the way of salvation it makes perfect sense. This is the way God works, and most powerfully as it turns out. It's written,

**People: I'll turn conventional wisdom on its head, I'll expose so-called experts as shams.**

One: So where can you find someone truly wise, truly educated, truly intelligent in this day and age? Hasn't God exposed it all as pretentious nonsense? Since the world in all its fancy wisdom never had a clue when it came to knowing God, God in his wisdom took delight in using what the world considered stupid—*preaching*, of all things! — to bring those who trust him into the way of salvation.

**People: While Jews clamor for miraculous demonstrations and Greeks go in for philosophical wisdom, we go right on proclaiming Christ, the Crucified. Jews treat this like an anti-miracle—and Greeks pass it off as absurd. But to us who are personally called by God himself—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's ultimate miracle and wisdom all wrapped up in one. Human wisdom is so cheap, so impotent, next to the seeming absurdity of God. Human strength can't begin to compete with God's "weakness."**

One: Take a good look, friends, at who you were when you got called into this life. I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"? That makes it quite clear that none of you can get by with blowing your own horn before God. Everything that we have—right thinking and right living, a clean slate and a fresh start—comes from God by way of Jesus Christ. That's why we have the saying, "If you're going to blow a horn, blow a trumpet for God."

**Second Reading**      Micah 6:1-8

*What God requires of us*

**God Challenges Israel**

**6** Hear what the Lord says:

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

**2** 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.

**3** 'O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

**4** 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.

**5** 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.'

**What God Requires**

**6** '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?

**7** 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?'

**8** 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?

### Third Reading Matthew 5:1-12

*Blessed*

#### **The Beatitudes**

**5** When Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. **2** Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

**3** 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**4** 'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

**5** 'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**6** 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

**7** 'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

**8** 'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

**9** 'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**10** 'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**11** 'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely<sup>[b]</sup> on my account. **12** Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.