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## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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### FIRST READING

**Zephaniah 3:14-18 (Lectionary #827, option #5)**

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah**

Shout for joy, O daughter Zion!

    sing joyfully, O Israel!

Be glad and exult with all your heart,

    O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has removed the judgment against you,  
    he turned away your enemies;

The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst,  
    you have no further misfortune to fear.

On that day, it shall be said to Jerusalem:

    Fear not, O Zion, be not discouraged!

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
    a mighty savior;

He will rejoice over you with gladness,  
    and renew you in his love,

He will sing joyfully because of you,  
    as one sings at festivals.

**The word of the Lord.**

***NOTE: If a pastor desires, he may replace the reading above with the first reading from the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Lectionary: 136, Ezekiel 18:25-28) or select another reading.***

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## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**Psalm 112:1bc-2, 3-4, 5-7, 7-8, 9 (Lectionary #645)**

**R).** Blessed the man who fears the Lord.

**Blessed the man who fears the LORD,  
who greatly delights in his  
commands.**

**His posterity shall be mighty upon the  
earth;  
the upright generation shall be  
blessed.**

**R).** Blessed the man who fears the Lord.

**Wealth and riches shall be in his house;  
his generosity shall endure forever.  
Light shines through the darkness for  
the upright;  
he is gracious and merciful and just.**

**R).** Blessed the man who fears the Lord.

**Well for the man who is gracious and  
lends,  
who conducts his affairs with justice;  
He shall never be moved;  
the just one shall be in everlasting  
remembrance.**

**R).** Blessed the man who fears the Lord.

**An evil report he shall not fear.  
His heart is firm, trusting in the  
LORD.**

**His heart is steadfast; he shall not fear  
till he looks down upon his foes.**

**R).** Blessed the man who fears the Lord.

**Lavishly he gives to the poor,  
his generosity shall endure forever;  
his horn shall be exalted in glory.**

**R).** Blessed the man who fears the Lord.

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### **SECOND READING**

**1 Corinthians 1:26-31 (Lectionary #645)**

**A reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.**

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.**

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### **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 9:35-38 (Lectionary #645)**

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew**

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages,  
teaching in their synagogues,  
proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,  
and curing every disease and illness.

At the sight of the crowds,  
his heart was moved with pity for them  
because they were troubled and abandoned,  
like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,  
“The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;  
so ask the master of the harvest  
to send out laborers for his harvest.”

**The Gospel of the Lord.**