

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The Old Testament is written in the fourth chapter of the Fifth Book of Moses called Deuteronomy, beginning at the fifth verse. (4:5–13, 32–40)

This passage may be found in the pew Bible on page 205.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

“Surely I have taught you statutes and judgments, just as the Lord my God commanded me, that you should act according to them in the land which you go to possess. Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, ‘Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.’

“For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, especially concerning the day you stood before the Lord your God in Horeb, when the Lord said to me, ‘Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth,

and that they may teach their children.’

“Then you came near and stood at the foot of the mountain, and the mountain burned with fire to the midst of heaven, with darkness, cloud, and thick darkness. And the Lord spoke to you out of the midst of the fire. You heard the sound of the words, but saw no form; you only heard a voice. So He declared to you His covenant which He commanded you to perform, the Ten Commandments; and He wrote them on two tablets of stone.

“For ask now concerning the days that are past, which were before you, since the day that God created man on the earth, and ask from one end of heaven to the other, whether any great thing like this has happened, or anything like it has been heard. Did any people ever hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as you have heard, and live? Or did God ever try to go and take for Himself a nation from the midst of another nation, by trials, by signs, by wonders, by war, by a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and by great terrors, according to all that the Lord

your God did for you in Egypt before your eyes? To you it was shown, that you might know that the Lord Himself is God; there is none other besides Him. Out of heaven He let you hear His voice, that He might instruct you; on earth He showed you His great fire, and you heard His words out of the midst of the fire. And because He loved your fathers, therefore He chose their descendants after them; and He brought you out of Egypt with His Presence, with His mighty power, driving out from before you nations greater and

mightier than you, to bring you in, to give you their land as an inheritance, as it is this day. Therefore know this day, and consider it in your heart, that the Lord Himself is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath; there is no other. You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the Lord your God is giving you for all time.”

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Psalm 66

- 1 O BE joyful in God, all ye lands; * sing praises unto the honour of his Name; make his praise to be glorious.
- 2 Say unto God, O how wonderful art thou in thy works! * through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies bow down unto thee.
- 3 For all the world shall worship thee, * sing of thee, and praise thy Name.
- 4 O come hither, and behold the works of God; * how wonderful he is in his doing toward the children of men.
- 5 He turned the sea into dry land, * so that they went through the water on foot; there did we rejoice thereof.
- 6 He ruleth with his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: * and such as will not believe shall not be able to exalt themselves.
- 7 O praise our God, ye peoples, * and make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holdeth our soul in life; * and suffereth not our feet to slip.
- 9 For thou, O God, hast proved us; * thou also hast tried us, like as silver is tried.
- 10 Thou broughtest us into the snare; * and laidest trouble upon our loins.
- 11 Thou sufferedst men to ride over our heads; * we went through fire and water, and thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place.
- 12 I will go into thine house with burnt-offerings, and will pay thee my vows, * which I promised with my lips, and spake with my mouth, when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer unto thee fat burnt-sacrifices, with the incense of rams; * I will offer bullocks and goats.
- 14 O come hither, and hearken, all ye that fear God; * and I will tell you what he hath done for my soul.
- 15 I called unto him with my mouth, * and gave him praises with my tongue.
- 16 If I incline unto wickedness with mine heart, * the Lord will not hear me.
- 17 But God hath heard me; * and considered the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Praised be God, who hath not cast out my prayer, * nor turned his mercy from me.

Glory be...

The Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

The New Testament is written in the 13th chapter of St. Paul's epistle to the Romans, beginning at the first verse.

This passage may be found in the Book of Common Prayer on page 114.

(Pause to allow parishioners to find the page.)

LET every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God; and they that resist shall receive to themselves condemnation. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil.

Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: for he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be

afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.

(Pause for a count of 5)

This is the word of the Lord.