

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy
4:1–2, 6–8,

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy

Moses said:

“People of Israel,
listen carefully to the laws and commands
that I am teaching you.
If you obey them, you will live,
and you will take the land
that the LORD God of your ancestors is giving you.
I am telling you what the LORD your God has commanded.
Don’t add anything or take anything away.

“By faithfully obeying these commands,
you will show other nations
how wise and understanding you are.
They will learn about these laws and say,
‘This great nation is very wise and understanding.’

“No other great nation has a god who is close enough
to answer their prayers,
as the LORD God does for us.
And no other great nation has laws
that are as fair as the ones I am giving you today.”

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 15:2–3a,
3bc and 5ef*

All: *The just will live
in the presence of the Lord.*

*Only those who obey God
and do as they should
speak the truth
and don't spread gossip.*

All: *The just will live
in the presence of the Lord.*

*They treat others fairly
and don't say cruel things.
Those who do these things
will always stand firm.*

All: *The just will live
in the presence of the Lord.*

SECOND READING
James 1:17–18, 21b–22

A reading from the letter of James

Brothers and sisters:
Every good and perfect gift comes down from the Father
who created all the lights in the heavens.
He is always the same
and never makes dark shadows by changing.
He wanted us to be his own special people,
and so he sent the true message to give us new birth.

Be humble and accept the message
that is planted in you to save you.

Obey God's message!
Don't fool yourselves by just listening to it.

The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL
Mark 7:1–5,
14–15, 21–23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Some Pharisees and several teachers
of the Law of Moses from Jerusalem
came and gathered around Jesus.
They noticed that some of his disciples
ate without first washing their hands.

The Pharisees and all other Jewish people
obey the teachings of their ancestors.
They always wash their hands in the proper way
before eating.
None of them will eat anything they buy in the market
until it is washed.
They also follow a lot of other teachings,
such as washing cups, pitchers, and bowls.

The Pharisees and teachers asked Jesus,
“Why don’t your disciples obey what our ancestors
taught us to do?
Why do they eat without washing their hands?”

Jesus called the crowd together again and said,
“Pay attention and try to understand what I mean.
The food that you put into your mouth
does not make you unclean and unfit to worship God.
The bad words that come out of your mouth
are what make you unclean.

GOSPEL
Mark 7:1–5,
14–15, 21–23

(continued)

“Out of your heart come evil thoughts, vulgar deeds,
stealing, murder, unfaithfulness in marriage,
greed, meanness, deceit,
indecentcy, envy, insults, pride, and foolishness.
All of these come from your heart,
and they are what make you unfit to worship God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.