

Epiphany 4A
January 29, 2023



Micah 6:1-8

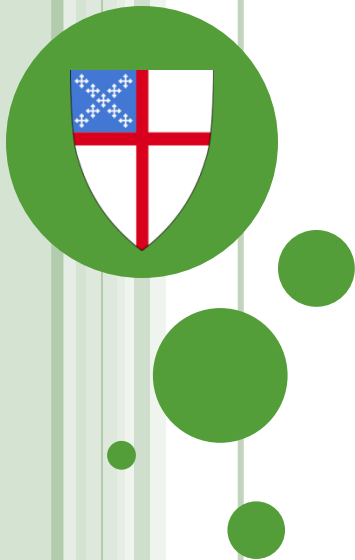
1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Matthew 5:1-12

Andrei Rublev
(c. 1360 – c. 1430)



Iconographer

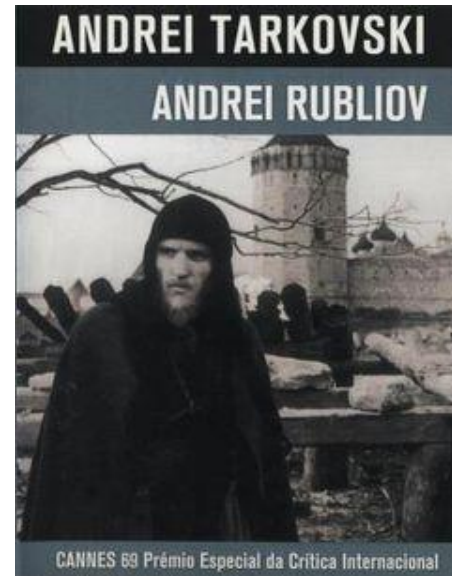


Andrei Rublev (1360 – 1430) Chronicles tell us that in 1408, along with Daniel Chorny, he painted the Assumption Cathedral in Vladimir, as well as Trinity Cathedral in the Trinity Lavra of St. Sergius between 1425-1427. After Daniel died, Andrei came to Moscow's Andronikov Monastery and painted his last work, the frescoes of the Saviour Cathedral. He is also believed to have painted at least one of the miniatures in the Khitrovo Gospels. The only work authenticated as solely his is the icon of the Trinity (c. 1410). It is based on an earlier icon, the Hospitality of Abraham (Genesis 18). Rublev removed the figures of Abraham and Sarah from the scene, and through a subtle use of composition and symbolism changed the subject to focus on the Mystery of the Trinity. In Rublev's art two traditions combine: the highest asceticism and the classic harmony of Byzantine mannerism. The characters of his paintings are always peaceful and calm. In time, his art came to be perceived as the ideal of Eastern Church painting and of Orthodox iconography. Andrei died at Andronikov Monastery between 1427-1430 (officially 29 Jan 1430). He was canonized a saint in 1988 by the Russian Orthodox Church. Since then, the Church has celebrated his feast day on January 29 and July 4. The Anglican and Episcopal Churches honor him only on the first of those dates. Since 1959 the Andrei Rublev Museum has been open at the Andronnikov Monastery, displaying the art of his works and his epoch. In 1966, Andrei Tarkovsky made his celebrated film, Andrei Rublev loosely based on the artist's life, which shows him as "a world-historic figure" and "Christianity as an axiom of Russia's historical identity" during a turbulent period in its history.

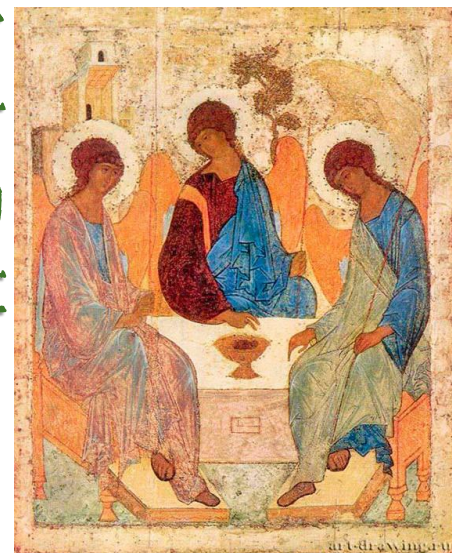


← Assumption Cathedral

Andronikov Monastery →



Andre Rublev



Collect for Epiphany 4A

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.



Prayer for Epiphany 4A [Andrei Rublev]

Holy God, we bless you for the gift of your monk and icon writer Andrei Rublev, who, inspired by the Holy Spirit, provided a window into heaven for generations to come, revealing the majesty and mystery of the holy and blessed Trinity; who lives and reigns through ages of ages. Amen.

Hear what the Lord says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains & let the hills hear your voice. Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the Lord, & 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 Egypt & redeemed you from the house of slavery; & I sent before you Moses, Aaron & Miriam. O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, that Balaam son of Beor answered him & what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the Lord."

What does the LORD require of You?

do JUSTICE
love MERCY AND
walk HUMBLY
WITH YOUR God.
MICAHAH 6:8

"With what shall I come before the Lord & 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; & what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness & to walk humbly with your God?

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You Must do 3 Things

-Micah prophesied in the 8th Cent BC, during the reigns of Judean Kings Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah; who ruled in the shadow of Assyria, the regional superpower of the day
--Ahaz, among Judah's worst kings, ignored Prophet Isaiah's advice to remain neutral.

--Hezekiah led a coalition in a failed rebellion against Assyria.

--In this 1st chapter, Micah foretells the coming of YHWH against Israel, the Northern Kingdom (Vv3-7) and Judah, the Southern Kingdom (Vv8-16).

--V4: Refers to the Exodus experience

--V5: Last and initial campsites before and after Israelites crossed the Jordan

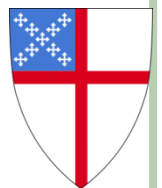
--Vv6-8: In form of worshipper asking a what we must do to satisfy YHWH & God's answer

1. 1st proposal = various offerings
2. 2nd proposal ups the ante in form and numbers
3. 3rd proposal exceeds acceptable limits – human sacrifice
4. YHWH didn't require firstborn sons as sacrifices on the altar. Instead, one redeem their firstborn children by paying five shekels to a priest

--Instead, one must act in positive ways toward other humans and toward God.

--Micah spells out 3 of them!

EPHAPHANY 4A: DO THESE 3 THINGS [MICAHAH 6:1-8]



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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... Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this ae? 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 & Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews & foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews & Greeks, Christ the power of God & the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, & God's weakness is stronger than human strength.



GOD'S FOOLISHNESS

Consider your own call, brothers & 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 & 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, & righteousness & sanctification & redemption, in order that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

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EPHAPHANY 4A: WHO'S THE REAL FOOL? (1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-31)

God's Paradigm

--Opening shot offends Greeks & Jews:

1. For Jews, logos = law & wisdom
2. For Greeks, logos = the reason behind cosmic order & advances of philosophy in understanding it
3. Paul's "logos of the cross" was thus offensive to reasoned & religious minds alike

--But that is Paul's point

1. Logos of the cross confounds the wisest of human minds
2. What appears as foolish to most, is really "the power of God and the wisdom of God" (V24)

--In Corinth, Paul knows he cannot win an argument based on who has the more reasonable worldly position, so he says God's wisdom only makes sense in an entirely different realm

--Paul makes 2 key arguments

1. Directs readers to Isaiah: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise & the discernment of the discerning I will thwart": God's wisdom is not the world's wisdom.
2. V27: "God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise"

--God chooses foolish/weak/nothing to upend the status quo & create life

--Then he describes the life we share with Christ in terms of **righteousness, sanctification & redemption**



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When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:



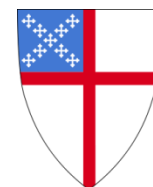
"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

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Nine Points of Light!

- This lesson on happiness unfolds with promises of blessedness experiencing mourning, meekness, peacemaking, persecution, poverty of spirit.
- Vv3/10: Jesus' *blessedness* has a new frame of reference: the *kingdom of God*.
- In God's kingdom *blessedness* does not depend on wealth, health or status; nor does it reward duty/righteousness
- Rather, blessedness is God's sheer gift, governed neither by honor nor shame, but by promise of abundant life
- Mourning, poor spirit, meekness show an onboarding of God's abundant life.
- When we've "eyes to see" our lives within the kingdom of God, it's like pushing the reset button.
- What language functions best in your context to describe new life in God for the whole world in Jesus' name?
- This is not about political correctness. It is about being sure you are sharing the good news, giving others a way to step into this amazing divine life that Jesus assures us is at hand.
- This revelation of God's life demands that we adjust to the way The Kingdom works, its values and priorities.
- We are reborn into new relationship with God, each other and creation.
- Repent and follow. Repent and follow. Repeat.

EPHAPHANY 4A: BEATITUDES! (MATTHEW 5:1-12)



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