

## **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**

January 28, 2024

Year B, Revised Common Lectionary

*[formatted version with line breaks and verse markers removed]*

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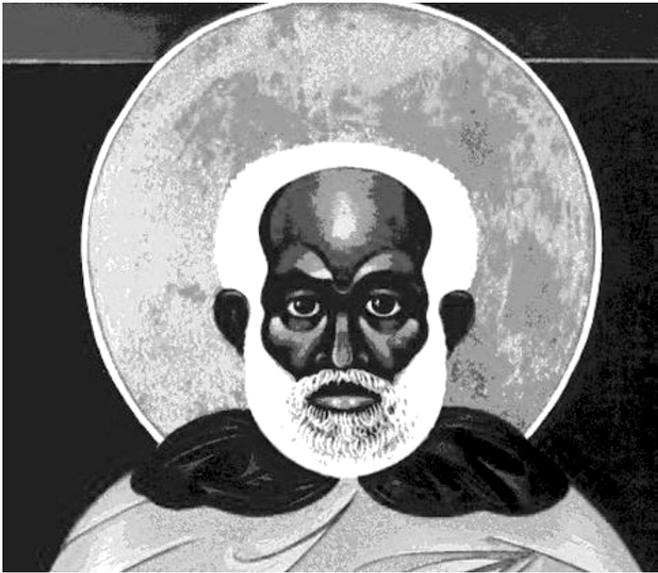
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*St. Moses the Black* (detail of contemporary icon).

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### Psalm 111

- ✘ Praise the LORD! I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
- ✘ Great are the works of the LORD, studied by all who delight in them.
- ✘ Full of honor and majesty is his work, and his righteousness endures forever.
- ✘ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds; the LORD is gracious and merciful. He provides food for those who fear him; he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- ✘ He has shown his people the power of his works, in giving them the heritage of the nations.
- ✘ The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.
- ✘ They are established forever and ever, to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

- ✘ He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his covenant forever. Holy and awesome is his name.
- ✘ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all those who practice it have a good understanding. His praise endures forever.

**1 Corinthians 8:1-13** Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that “all of us possess knowledge.” Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge, but anyone who loves God is known by him. Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that “no idol in the world really exists” and that “there is no God but one.” Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many Lords—yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to an idol, and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. “Food will not bring us close to God.” We are no worse off if we do not eat and no better off if we do. But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? So by your knowledge the weak brother or sister for whom Christ died is destroyed. But when you thus sin against brothers and sisters and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never again eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

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