

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

²¹Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth?

²²It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; ²³who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

²⁴Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

²⁵To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One.

²⁶Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

²⁷Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the LORD, and my right is disregarded by my God"? ²⁸Have you not known? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. ²⁹He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless.

³⁰Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted;

³¹but those who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

¹ Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises| to our God!
How pleasant it is to honor God with praise!
² The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem, and gathers the exiles of Israel.
³ The LORD heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
⁴ The LORD counts the number of the stars
and calls them all by their names.
⁵ Great is our LORD and mighty in power;
there is no limit to God's wisdom.
⁶ The LORD lifts up the lowly, but casts the wicked to the ground.
⁷ Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;
make music upon the harp to our God,
⁸ who covers the heavens with clouds
and prepares rain for the earth, making grass to grow upon the mountains.
⁹ God provides food for the cattle and for the young ravens when they cry.
¹⁰ God is not impressed by the might of a horse,
and has no pleasure in the speed of a runner,
¹¹ but finds pleasure in those who fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah!

GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39

²⁹ As soon as [Jesus and the disciples] left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him. ³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.