

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR SUNDAY**  
**February 4, 2024**  
**Fifth Sunday after Epiphany**

**PSALM: Psalm 147:1-7**

Praise the LORD!  
How good it is to sing praises to our God;  
for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting.

The LORD builds up Jerusalem;  
he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted,  
and binds up their wounds.

He determines the number of the stars;  
he gives to all of them their names.

Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;  
his understanding is beyond measure.  
The LORD lifts up the downtrodden;

he casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving;  
make melody to our God on the lyre.

**READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23**

16 If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting,  
for an obligation is laid on me, and woe to me if I do not proclaim  
the gospel!

17 For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. 18 What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, so as not to make full use of my rights in the gospel.

19 For though I am free with respect to all, I have made myself a slave to all, so that I might win more of them. 20 To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. To those under the law I became as one under the law (though I myself am not under the law) so that I might win those under the law. 21 To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so that I might win those outside the law. 22 To the weak I became weak, so that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that I might by all means save some. 23 I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

### **GOSPEL: Mark 1:29-39**

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons.

<sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup> 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.

<sup>35</sup> In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and his companions hunted for him. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they

said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup> 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." <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.