

## **Scripture Lesson for February 7, 2021 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany**

### **Introduction to the Hebrew Lesson: Isaiah 40: 21-31**

The several chapters leading up to the 40<sup>th</sup> chapter of Isaiah tell the story of the struggles and illness of King Hezekiah, some of this is the result of the attacks from Babylon. Finally, Babylon releases the Israelites from their bondage and God tells Isaiah to share these words of comfort. A reading from Isaiah, chapter 40, verses 21-31

### **A Reading from Isaiah 40: 21-31 (New Revised Standard Version)**

<sup>21</sup> Have 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?

<sup>22</sup> It 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;

<sup>23</sup> who brings princes to naught,  
and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing.

<sup>24</sup> Scarcely 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.

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

<sup>26</sup> Lift 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.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD,

and my right is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup> Have 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.

<sup>29</sup> He gives power to the faint,  
and strengthens the powerless.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths will faint and be weary,  
and the young will fall exhausted;

<sup>31</sup> but 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.

### **Introduction: The Gospel Lesson Mark 1:29-39**

Jesus wastes no time in engaging in his healing ministry. Jesus continues to call disciples and offer healing to many people who are ill, physically, and mentally. He ends up at Simon's house where Jesus finds many around the house wanting for Jesus' healing ministry. Jesus seems overwhelmed and "in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up and went out to deserted place and there he prayed: Listen to a reading from Mark, chapter 1, verses 29-39:

### **Gospel Lesson: Mark 1:29-39 Jesus Heals Many at Simon's House**

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they<sup>[a]</sup> 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 sunset, 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.

## **A Preaching Tour in Galilee**

<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.