

## Proper 5

## READINGS

Isaiah 40:21-31

Psalm 147:1-12, 21c

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

Mark 1:29-39

## OPENING PRAYER

Out of your power and compassion, O God,  
you sent your Son into our wounded world  
to proclaim the day of salvation.

Heal the broken-hearted;  
bind up our wounds;  
bring us to health of body and spirit,  
and raise us to new life in your service;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Loving Saviour,  
you only need to say the word  
and we are healed.  
Send us now  
to proclaim in word and deed  
the day of your salvation,  
that all the world may know  
your power to save;  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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Proper 5

FIRST READING: Isaiah 40:21-31

*A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.*

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?

Yahweh sits above the vaulted roof of the earth,  
its inhabitants appearing like grasshoppers below;  
who stretches out the heavens like a curtain,  
and spreads them like a tent to live in;  
who brings princes to naught,  
making the rulers of the earth as nothing.

Scarcely are they planted,  
scarcely sown,  
scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth,  
when Yahweh blows upon them,  
and they wither,  
a storm wind sweeping them away like stubble.

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

Lift up your eyes and ask yourself:

Who created the stars,  
if not the One who scatters their host,  
and numbers them,  
calling each by name?

Because God is so great in strength,  
and so mighty in power,  
that not a single one is missing.

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Proper 5

Why do you say, O Jacob,  
and speak, O Israel,  
"My way is hidden from Yahweh,  
my rights are ignored by my God"?

Have you not known?

Have you not heard?

Yahweh is the everlasting God,  
the Creator of the ends of the earth.

Our God does not faint or grow weary.

Our God has a depth of understanding that is unsearchable.

Our God gives power to the faint,  
and strength to the powerless.

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

but those who wait for Yahweh  
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.

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.*

***Thanks be to God.***

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Proper 5

PSALM 147:1-12, 21c

Hallelujah!

How good it is to praise our God!

**How pleasant and fitting it is  
to sing God's praise!**

Our God rebuilds Jerusalem;  
**and gathers the exiles of Israel.**

God heals the brokenhearted  
**and binds up their wounds.**

God counts the number of the stars  
**and calls them all by their names.**

Great is our God and mighty in power;  
**there is no limit to God's wisdom.**

Our God lifts up the oppressed,  
**but casts the wicked to the ground.**

Sing to our God with thanksgiving;  
**make music upon the harp to our God—**

who covers the heavens with clouds  
**and provides rain for the earth;**

who makes grass to grow upon the mountains  
**and green plants to serve humankind;**

who provides food for flocks and herds  
**and for the young ravens when they cry.**

Proper 5

Our God is not impressed by the might of a horse,  
**nor does God delight in the strength of humans.**

But God delights in those who worship  
with awe and reverence,  
**in those who place their trust in God's love.**  
**Hallelujah!**

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Proper 5

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

*A Reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians.*

If I proclaim the gospel, this gives me no ground for boasting, for an obligation is laid upon me and woe to me if I do not proclaim the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I can claim a reward; but if unwillingly, I am nonetheless entrusted with a commission.

What then is my reward? Just this: that in my proclamation I may make the gospel free of charge, and do not assert the authority the gospel gives me. For though I am not bound to anyone, I have placed myself in the service of all so as to win over as many as possible.

So to the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews. Even though I am not subject to the Law, I became as one under the Law so that I might win those who are subject to the Law. To those who have no Law—to the Gentiles—I became as one free of the Law (though not free from God's law, being subject to the Law of Christ) so that I might win those who have no Law. 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 at least some of them. In fact, everything I do, I do for the sake of the gospel, in the hope that I may share in its blessings.

*Listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.****Thanks be to God.***

## Proper 5

GOSPEL READING: Mark 1:29-39

*The Lord be with you.****And with thy spirit.****The Holy Gospel**of our Lord Jesus Christ**according to Mark.****Glory be to Thee, O Lord.****God be with you.****And also with you.****The Good News**of Jesus Christ**according to Mark.****Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

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

That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. 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 who he was.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, Jesus got up and went out to a deserted place and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." He answered, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the Good News there also; for that is what I have come to do."

And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the Good News in their synagogues and casting out demons.

*The Gospel of Christ.****Praise be to Thee, O Christ.****The Gospel of Christ.****Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***