

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

FIRST READING

Isaiah 40:21-31

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? 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; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. 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. To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. 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. 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"? 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. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 147:1-12, 21c

Read in unison.

.Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

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

Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

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

He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.

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

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.

Hallelujah!

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 9:16-23

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! 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. 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.

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. 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. 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. 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. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, so that I may share in its blessings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 1:29-39

. Jesus left the synagogue at Capernaum, and 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 him 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 him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he 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 neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

**WE REMEMBER BEFORE GOD
ALL THOSE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD
WHOSE LIVES HAVE BEEN DISRUPTED BY VIOLENCE OR WAR.
WE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO WORK FOR PEACE
AND FOR NEW BEGINNINGS.**

AS WE PRAY, LET US REMEMBER:

- ◆ those in special need, especially ; Julie, Ruth, J.D., Adalynne, Wayne, Melody, Bill, John, Sean, Sarah, Witt, Patrick, George, Dawn, Mary Jane, Ron, Pat, Robert & Namoni, Mike & Nancy; Helen; Ellie; Riley; Frank; Emma Jane; George, the Von Dwingelo family, Bill & Barbara; Esther & her family, Lindsay; Louise, and Ginny;
- ◆ the departed, especially , Candace Paxia, Beverly Moxley, Joseph S. Tirrito, Ruth Doeren, Ruth Irene Kelsey, Manthy W. Hillmer, Frank Edward Smith, and James E. Anglin.
- ◆ the baptismal birthdays of Melanie Edens, Mary Kate Lusson, Rob Stresing, Ryan Seely, Alyssa Seely, Chase Long, Tyson Long, Tom Meeks and Kristie Stresing.

◆ **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It's **SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY** and our **YOUTH** are here taking donations which will be given to our Food Pantry. They are also making their "sub sandwiches" to enjoy during SuperBowl — if you haven't placed an order, the cost is \$3/sub or 2 for \$5. Give your orders in the Parish Hall.

We need servers for the **Soup Kitchen** today. Be down at the kitchen by 4:15 p.m., bring chocolate milk please, and let Dan Basche know if you are coming. See you there!

The **Crafters Group** of St. John's needs your "gently used" pillowcases. We use them to make dresses for girls in Africa. Any questions, see or call Janet Lennon (623-687-7397).

On Saturday, February 25th, we will continue refurbishing the **Habitat house** for the Munoz family. If

we are on schedule, we will be painting the outside of the house. We will leave the church at 7 a.m. to carpool over, or you can meet us at 6732 N. 73rd Ave at 7:30 a.m. Everyone is invited to join in the fun. Equipment and lunch are provided.

On July 7-15, 2012, the **Episcopal Habitat Coalition** is planning to help build houses in Cartagena, Colombia. If you would like to join this fantastic opportunity, or would like more information, see Sandy Basche —call (602-439-3594) — or e-mail (dsbasche@juno.com)

WE CONTINUE TO COLLECT BLANKETS AND WARM CLOTHES AT THE CHRIS BECKER DINING HALL/SOUP KITCHEN. They are greatly needed during the winter months. If you find more sweaters, sweatshirts, jackets, sleeping bags or blankets, please leave them in or near Dan Basche's blue collection bin in the Parish Hall.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Today	Holy Eucharist	8 & 10 a.m.
	Godly Play & Adult Education	9 a.m.
	Youth Group (Parish Hall)	8 a.m.
Mon	Finance Group	6: p.m.
	Boy Scouts (PH/Library/East Annex)	7 p.m.
	Cursillo (Chilton Hall Rm. 2)	7:30 p.m.
Tue.	New Testament in Review	6 p.m.
	with Bruce Jackson	
	Joyful Noise Choir Rehearsal	7 p.m.
Wed.	Holy Eucharist & Healing	10 a.m.
	Bible Study following the 10 a.m. service	
	Holy Eucharist	6:30 p.m.
	Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
	Chancel Choir Rehearsal	7:15 p.m.
Thu.	Guitar Lessons (East Annex/Choir Rm.)	5 p.m.
	Sewing & Crafting Group	6:30 p.m.
Fri	Bible Study	7 p.m.
Sun.	Holy Eucharist	8 & 10 a.m.
	Godly Play & Adult Education	9 a.m.
	Youth Group (East Annex)	4 p.m.

NEWSLETTER DUE TO CYNTHIA PASTULA TODAY BY
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**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST**

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Our Altar flowers are given in celebration of Linda Phillips' Mother Betty's 91st birthday; and by Rose Hartley in celebration of her Daughter Traci's birthday. .