

Scripture Readings for February 3/4, 2024

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: Psalm 147:1-11, 20c

¹Hallelujah! 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.**

³The 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. R**

⁵Great is our LORD and might- | y in power;
there is no limit | to God's wisdom.

⁶**The LORD lifts | up the lowly,
but casts the wicked | to the ground.**

⁷Sing 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 up- | on the mountains. R**

⁹God 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,**

¹¹but finds pleasure in those who | fear the LORD,
in those who await God's steadfast love. ^{20c} Hallelujah! R