

Introducing the Lessons of the Church Year

5 Epiphany, Year B



First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

In our Hebrew Bible lesson the prophet Isaiah summons the people to renew their trust and confidence in God. God alone is sovereign, the Lord of all that exists, the creator of the earth and its creatures and the fount of understanding. Those who turn to the Lord will find their strength replenished; they will not be disappointed.

Psalms 147:1-11, 20c

A hymn of praise to the Lord, who rules over nature in wisdom and has shown faithfulness to Israel.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23

In this reading we learn how Paul seeks to become all things to all people in order that he may freely and without hindrance share the gospel with them. He takes no special pride in his preaching of the gospel because that is his commission from the Lord. In order not to create unnecessary difficulties, he is willing to live under the law among Jews and outside the law among Gentiles. Some may misunderstand and think him unprincipled, but Paul's only concern is with the essentials of the gospel.

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Our gospel tells of healing events which took place toward the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Peter's mother-in-law is cured of fever. Many flock to Jesus. He heals them and casts out the demons who recognize him for who he is. A brief retreat ends because of the pressing need to continue his mission. The power of the kingdom of God is made manifest through his words and deeds.