

Lectionary Readings for February 5, 2012
Jan Hus Presbyterian Church and Neighborhood House
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[Isaiah](#)

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Isaiah 40:21-31 (The Message)

Have you not been paying attention?
Have you not been listening?
Haven't you heard these stories all your life?
Don't you understand the foundation of all things?
God sits high above the round ball of earth.
The people look like mere ants.
He stretches out the skies like a canvas—
yes, like a tent canvas to live under.
He ignores what all the princes say and do.
The rulers of the earth count for nothing.
Princes and rulers don't amount to much.
Like seeds barely rooted, just sprouted,
They shrivel when God blows on them.
Like flecks of chaff, they're gone with the wind.

"So—who is like me?
Who holds a candle to me?" says The Holy.
Look at the night skies:
Who do you think made all this?
Who marches this army of stars out each night,
counts them off, calls each by name
—so magnificent! so powerful!—
and never overlooks a single one?

Why would you ever complain, O Jacob,
or, whine, Israel, saying,
"God has lost track of me.
He doesn't care what happens to me"?
Don't you know anything? Haven't you been listening?
God doesn't come and go. God lasts.
He's Creator of all you can see or imagine.
He doesn't get tired out, doesn't pause to catch his breath.
And he knows everything, inside and out.
He energizes those who get tired,
gives fresh strength to dropouts.
For even young people tire and drop out,
young folk in their prime stumble and fall.
But those who wait upon God get fresh strength.
They spread their wings and soar like eagles,
They run and don't get tired,
they walk and don't lag behind.

Psalm 147 (NRSV)

Praise the Lord!

How good it is to sing praises to our God; for God is gracious,
and a song of praise is fitting.

The Lord builds up Jerusalem and gathers the outcasts of Israel.

God heals the brokenhearted, and binds up their wounds.

The Lord determines the number of the stars and gives to all of them their names.

Great is our God, and abundant in power; God's understanding is beyond measure.

The Lord lifts up the downtrodden and casts the wicked to the ground.

Sing to the Lord with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

God covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow
on the hills.

God gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

God's delight is not in the strength of the horse nor pleasure in the speed of a
runner;

but the Lord takes pleasure in those who fear God, in those who hope in God's
steadfast love.

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

For God strengthens the bars of your gates; God blesses your children within you.

God grants peace within your borders and fills you with the finest of wheat.

God sends out God's command to the earth; God's word runs swiftly.

God gives snow like wool and scatters frost like ashes.

God hurls down hail like crumbs— who can stand before God's cold?

God sends out God's word, and melts them; making the wind blow and the waters
flow.

God declares God's word to Jacob, God's statutes and ordinances to Israel.

God has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know God's ordinances.
Praise the Lord!

1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (NRSV)

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 servant 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.

Mark 1:29-39 (NRSV)

As soon as they left the synagogue, they 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.