

**FIRST READING**

Job 7:1–4, 6–7

**A reading from the book of Job**

**J**ob responded to his friend and said:

“Life on earth is slavery!  
We spend our days like laborers.  
I am only a slave in search of shade,  
a laborer waiting for his wages.

“Each month of my life is meaningless,  
and all of my nights are miserable.  
While lying in bed I ask,  
‘How long before time to get up?’  
The night drags slowly on,  
as I toss and turn until the sun rises.

“My days fly by more swiftly than the needle of a weaver,  
and they end without hope.  
Remember that my life is merely a breath,  
and I will never be happy again.”

**The word of the Lord.**

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**RESPONSORIAL PSALM**

*Psalm 147:1, 4, 5 & 7*

**All:** *Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.*

*Shout praises to the LORD!  
Our God is kind,  
and it is right and good  
to sing praises to him.*

**All:** *Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.*

*He decided how many stars  
there would be in the sky  
and gave each one a name.*

**All:** *Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.*

*Our LORD is great and powerful!  
He understands everything.  
Celebrate and sing!  
Play your harps  
for the LORD our God.*

**All:** *Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.*

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**SECOND READING**

1 Corinthians 9:16–18

**A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians**

Brothers and sisters:

I don't have any reason to brag about preaching the good news.

Preaching is something God told me to do,  
and if I don't do it, I am doomed.

If I preach because I want to, I will be paid.

But even if I don't want to,  
it is still something that God has sent me to do.

What pay am I given?

It is the chance to preach the good news free of charge  
and not to use the privileges that are mine because I am a preacher.

**The word of the Lord.**

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**GOSPEL**  
Mark 1:29–39

**A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark**

As soon as Jesus left the meeting place with James and John,  
they went home with Simon and Andrew.  
When they got there,  
Jesus was told that Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with fever.  
Jesus went to her.  
He took hold of her hand and helped her up.  
The fever left her, and she served them a meal.

That evening after sunset,  
all who were sick or had demons in them were brought to Jesus.  
In fact, the whole town gathered around the door of the house.

Jesus healed all kinds of terrible diseases  
and forced out a lot of demons.  
But the demons knew who he was,  
and he did not let them speak.

Very early the next morning Jesus got up and went to a place  
where he could be alone and pray.  
Simon and the others started looking for him.

And when they found him, they said,  
"Everyone is looking for you!"

Jesus replied, "We must go to the nearby towns,  
so that I can tell the good news to those people.  
This is why I have come."

Then Jesus went to Jewish meeting places everywhere in Galilee,  
where he preached and forced out demons.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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