

Bible Readings for Sunday 7 February 2021
Theme - Hope & Healing

First Bible Reading Mark 1:29-39

(From - New Living Translation)

After Jesus left the synagogue with James and John, they went to Simon and Andrew's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a high fever. They told Jesus about her right away. So he went to her bedside, took her by the hand, and helped her sit up. Then the fever left her, and she prepared a meal for them.

That evening after sunset, many sick and demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. The whole town gathered at the door to watch. So Jesus healed many people who were sick with various diseases, and he cast out many demons. But because the demons knew who he was, he did not allow them to speak.

Before daybreak the next morning, Jesus got up and went out to an isolated place to pray. Later Simon and the others went out to find him. When they found him, they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

But Jesus replied, "We must go on to other towns as well, and I will preach to them, too. That is why I came." So he traveled throughout the region of Galilee, preaching in the synagogues and casting out demons.

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Second Bible Reading

Isaiah 40:21-31 - from New Living Translation

Haven't you heard? Don't you understand?

Are you deaf to the words of God—
the words he gave before the world began?

Are you so ignorant?

God sits above the circle of the earth.

The people below seem like grasshoppers to him!
He spreads out the heavens like a curtain
and makes his tent from them.

He judges the great people of the world
and brings them all to nothing.

They hardly get started, barely taking root,
when he blows on them and they wither.

The wind carries them off like chaff.

"To whom will you compare me?

Who is my equal?" asks the Holy One.

Look up into the heavens.

Who created all the stars?

He brings them out like an army, one after another,
calling each by its name.

Because of his great power and incomparable strength,
not a single one is missing.

O Jacob, how can you say the Lord does not see your troubles?

O Israel, how can you say God ignores your rights?

Have you never heard?

Have you never understood?

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of all the earth.
He never grows weak or weary.

No one can measure the depths of his understanding.

He gives power to the weak
and strength to the powerless.

Even youths will become weak and tired,
and young men will fall in exhaustion.

But those who trust in the Lord will find new strength.

They will soar high on wings like eagles.

They will run and not grow weary.

They will walk and not faint.