

Psalm 147

verses 1-6 - 5th Sunday Year B

verses 1-11 (LXX Psalm 146) Morning Prayer Thursday Week 4

verses 12-20 (LXX Psalm 147) Morning Prayer Friday Weeks 2&4

Psalm 147 is in two parts. The first part (verses 1-11) is a call to praise YHWH who sustains his creation and cares for those who look to him for love. The second part (verses 12-20) continues the theme of YHWH as creator with the focus more on Jerusalem and on the special care YHWH has for his chosen people.

Part One. (verses 1-11) - LXX Psalm 146

**¹Praise YH! [Hal'êlû Yâ]
How good it is to sing
praises to our God; for he
is gracious, and a song of
praise is fitting.
²YHWH* builds up Jerusa-
lem; he gathers the outcasts
of Israel.**

**³He heals those whose
hearts* are broken, and
binds up their wounds.**

This reads like an answer to the prayer of Psalm 51:18: 'Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem'.

As a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you.

– Isaiah 62:5

The voice of mirth and the voice of gladness, the voice of the bridegroom and the voice of the bride, the voices of those who sing, as they bring thank offerings to the house of YHWH: 'Give thanks to YHWH of hosts, for YHWH is good, for his steadfast love endures forever!' For I will restore the fortunes of the land as at first, says YHWH.

– Jeremiah 33:11

I am going to bring it recovery and healing; I will heal them and reveal to them abundance of prosperity and security.

– Jeremiah 33:6

Bless YHWH, O my soul, and do not forget what he has done for you. YHWH forgives all your guilt, who heals all your diseases.

– Psalm 103:2-3

The spirit of the Lord YHWH is upon me, because YHWH has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted.

– Isaiah 61:1

Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

– Matthew 9:12

Lift 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.

– Isaiah 40:26

Is this a polemic against Babylonian star-worship?

You are wearied with your many consultations; let those who study the heavens stand up and save you, those who gaze at the stars, and at each new moon predict what shall befall you.

– Isaiah 47:13

YHWH is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable.

– Isaiah 40:28

Those who handle the bow shall not stand, and those who are swift of foot shall not save themselves, nor shall those who ride horses save their lives.

– Amos 2:15

Some boast of chariots, and some of horses, but we invoke YHWH, our God.

– Psalm 20:7

⁴He determines the number of the stars; he gives to all of them their names.

⁵Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure.

⁶YHWH lifts up the oppressed*; he casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to YHWH with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre.

⁸He covers the heavens with clouds, prepares rain for the earth, makes grass grow on the hills.

⁹He gives to the animals their food, and to the young ravens when they cry.

¹⁰His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the speed of a runner;

¹¹but YHWH takes pleasure in those who fear* him, in those who hope* in his kindness*.

Alleluia

Part Two (verses 12-20) - LXX Psalm 147:1-9

The Greek Septuagint, and so the Latin Vulgate and the Christian liturgical texts divide this psalm into two, so that (for the first time since psalm 9) the psalm numbering of the Hebrew and Greek Bibles is the same (though the verse numbering is necessarily different).

¹²Praise YHWH, O Jerusalem! Praise your God, O Zion!

¹³For he strengthens the bars of your gates;

he blesses* your children within you.

¹⁴He grants peace* within your borders;

he fills you with the finest of wheat.

‘Jerusalem’ means ‘city of peace’

I will appoint Peace as your overseer and Righteousness as your taskmaster.

– Isaiah 60:17

**¹⁵He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly.**

¹⁶He gives snow like wool; he scatters frost like ashes.

**¹⁷He hurls down hail like crumbs –
who can stand before his cold?**

**¹⁸He sends out his word, and melts them;
he makes his wind blow, and the waters flow.**

**¹⁹He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.**

**²⁰He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances.**

Praise YH! [Halêlû Yâ]

What other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

– Deuteronomy 4:8