



Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast
February 7, 2021
5th Sunday After Epiphany
(The Epiphany, January 6, 2021)

Revised Common Lectionary Scripture Readings for this Sunday

- [Isaiah 40:21-31](#): The prophet speaks to a people weary from years in exile
 - [Psalm 147:1-12, 21c](#): A song praising God for His care of humankind and the world.
 - [1 Corinthians 9:16-23](#): Paul presents himself as a model of Christian behavior for the Corinthians.
 - [Mark 1:29-39](#): A narration of three scenes about Jesus's healing miracles.
-

What Do We Expect from Scripture?

Our relationship with scripture has ups and downs. At times we savor the familiar comforting words of a Psalm or marvel at an inspiring story of faith in the Gospels. At other times, reading through a series of scriptures (like the ones above), seems bewildering, the differences between the texts confusing rather than enriching us. We may not be seeing the forest for the trees.

Maybe this will help. Today we should recall we are in the season of Epiphany, and the scriptures throughout this season have highlighted the disclosure of God in the world. Today's texts from Isaiah and the Psalms are unrestrained praise, contrasting our powerful God with would-be alternatives that are feeble and dysfunctional: "Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; his understanding is beyond measure (Ps 147:5)". Yet these hymns of praise do not only describe a far-away God, remote from reality.

We continue reading Paul's self-disclosures in 1 Corinthians and see how genuinely Paul is gospel driven. His courage and freedom allow him to proclaim the Good News, meeting people where they are. The reading in Mark shows how God's power thrusts Jesus into the midst of human need, and from this viewpoint Jesus teaches and proclaims God's kingdom.

Wherever we may find our relationship with scripture on a given day, we might think of scripture as the root of our faith, the stalk as those faithful who came before us and support us, and our work on earth as the fruit. Ultimately, we cannot live in the Kingdom and bear good fruit without those scriptural roots. May it be so. AMEN.



Special Prayer: Set us free, O God, from the bondage of ignorance, and give us the liberty of that abundant life which you have made known to us in your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.