Responsive Reading : Psalm 147

Praise the LORD!

**For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

The LORD builds up Jerusalem; he gathers the outcasts of Israel.

**He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds**

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

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

The LORD lifts up the humble; he casts the wicked to the ground.

**Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; make melody to our God on the lyre!**

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

**He gives to the beasts their food, and to the young ravens that cry.**

His delight is not in the strength of the horse, nor his pleasure in the legs of a man,

**but the LORD takes pleasure in those who fear him, in those who hope in his steadfast love.**

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

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

He makes peace in your borders; he fills you with the finest of the wheat.

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

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

**He hurls down his crystals of ice like crumbs; who can stand before his cold?**

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

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

He has not dealt thus with any other nation; they do not know his rules.

**Praise the LORD!**