

## **Psalm 147<sup>iii</sup> “The Song of Tender Care”**

<sup>1</sup>Hallelujah! How good it is to sing praises to our God! \*  
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

<sup>2</sup>The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; \*  
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

<sup>3</sup>He heals the brokenhearted \*  
and binds up their wounds.

<sup>4</sup>He counts the number of the stars \*  
and calls them all by their names.

<sup>5</sup>Great is our LORD and mighty in power; \*  
there is no limit to his wisdom.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD lifts up the lowly, \*  
but casts the wicked to the ground.

<sup>7</sup>Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; \*  
make music to our God upon the harp.<sup>iv</sup>

<sup>8</sup>He covers the heavens with clouds \*  
and prepares rain for the earth;

<sup>9</sup>He makes grass to grow upon the mountains \*  
and green plants to serve mankind.

<sup>10</sup>He provides food for flocks and herds \*  
and for the young ravens when they cry.

<sup>11</sup>He is not impressed by the might of a horse; \*  
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

<sup>12</sup>But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, \*  
in those who await his gracious favor.<sup>v</sup>

<sup>13</sup>Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;

<sup>14</sup>For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.

<sup>15</sup>He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.  
<sup>16</sup>He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.  
<sup>17</sup>He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.  
<sup>18</sup>He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?  
<sup>19</sup>He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.  
<sup>20</sup>He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.  
<sup>21</sup>He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

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<sup>iii</sup> **About the Psalm: Psalm 147 or 147:13-21**

Psalm 147 is divided into three stanzas: vv. 1-6, 7-11 and 12-20, each beginning with a call to worship and continuing with motives for praise. The themes of God's sovereignty over the natural order and over human society are mingled throughout the psalm.

<sup>iv</sup> In verse 7 we are all invited to add our individual voices as an instrument of praise. For each voice lends weight and beauty to what is sung; each story is a part of the song.

<sup>v</sup> The implication here is that God is longing each search for the divine face, just as we search for a familiar face in a crowd of strangers.