

## **FIRST READING**

## **EXODUS 14:21-31—Deliverance from Pharaoh**

<sup>21</sup>Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. <sup>22</sup>The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. <sup>23</sup>The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. <sup>24</sup>At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. <sup>25</sup>He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt."

<sup>26</sup>Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." <sup>27</sup>So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. <sup>28</sup>The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. <sup>29</sup>But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

<sup>30</sup>Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. <sup>31</sup>Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

## **PSALM 73**

<sup>1</sup>Truly, God is | good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

<sup>2</sup>But as for me, my feet had nearly slipped; I had almost tripped and fallen;

<sup>3</sup>because I envied the proud and saw the prosperity of the wicked.

<sup>4</sup>For their entire lives seem free of pain, and they have their fill to eat;

<sup>5</sup>in the misfortunes of others they have no share; they are not afflicted as others are;

<sup>6</sup>therefore they wear their pride like a necklace and wrap their violence about them like a cloak.

<sup>7</sup>Their iniquity comes from gross minds, and their hearts overflow with wicked thoughts.

<sup>8</sup>They scoff and speak maliciously; out of their haughtiness they plan oppression.

<sup>9</sup>They set their mouths against the heavens, and their evil speech runs through the world.

<sup>10</sup>Therefore the people turn to them and they enjoy fullness of days.

<sup>11</sup>They say, "How should God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

<sup>12</sup>So then, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase their wealth.

<sup>13</sup>In vain have I kept my heart clean, and washed my hands in innocence.

<sup>14</sup>I have been afflicted all day long, and punished every morning.

<sup>15</sup>Had I gone on speaking this way, I should have betrayed the generation of your children.

<sup>16</sup>When I tried to understand these things, it was too hard for me;

<sup>17</sup>until I entered God's sanctuary and discerned the end of the wicked.

<sup>18</sup>Surely, you set them in slippery places; you cast them down in ruin.

<sup>19</sup>Oh, how suddenly do they come to destruction, come to an end, and perish from terror!

<sup>20</sup>Like a dream when one awakens, O Lord, when you arise you will make their image vanish.

<sup>21</sup>When my mind became embittered, I was sorely wounded in my heart.

<sup>22</sup>I was stupid and had no understanding; I was like a brute beast in your presence.

<sup>23</sup>Yet I am always with you; you hold me by my right hand.

<sup>24</sup>You will guide me by your counsel, and afterwards receive me with glory.

<sup>25</sup>Whom have I in heaven but you? And having you, I desire nothing upon earth.

## **SECOND READING**

## **REVELATION 1:9-18—The beginning and the end.**

<sup>9</sup>I, John, your brother who share with you in Jesus the persecution and the kingdom and the patient endurance, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup>I was in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamum, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash across his chest. <sup>14</sup>His head and his hair were white as white wool, white as snow; his eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup>his feet were like burnished bronze, refined as in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup>In his right hand he held seven stars, and from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining with full force.

<sup>17</sup>When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup>and the living one. I was dead, and see, I am alive forever and ever; and I have the keys of Death and of Hades.

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

## **MATTHEW 17:1-9—Jesus is transfigured.**

<sup>1</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup>And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. <sup>3</sup>Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

<sup>4</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup>While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup>When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup>But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup>And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."