Readings for June 7

First Reading: Hosea 5:15—6:6

Because the people have trusted in military powers and not God, God decides to withdraw from the scene until Israel acknowledges its guilt and seeks God's face. The response of the people does not acknowledge this guilt and is as fickle as fog or dew burned away quickly by the sun. God desires loyalty rather than words or meaningless deeds.

15 I will return again to my place
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will beg my favor:

6:1 "Come, let us return to the LORD,
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.
2 After two days he will revive us;
on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him.
3 Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers,
like the spring rains that water the earth."

4 What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah?
Your love is like a morning cloud,
like the dew that goes away early.
5 Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgment goes forth as the light.
6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Psalm: Psalm 50:7-15

Call upon me in the day of trouble, says your God. (Ps. 50:15)

7 "Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear wit- | ness against you;
for I am | God, your God.
8 **I do not accuse you because | of your sacrifices;**
your burnt offerings are al- | ways before me.
9 I will not accept a calf | from your stalls,
nor goats | from your pens;

10 **for all the wild animals of the for- | est are mine,**
the cattle on a | thousand hills. R
11 I know every bird | of the mountains,
and the creatures of the | fields are mine.
12 **If I were hungry, I | would not tell you,**
for the whole world is mine and all | that is in it.
13 Do you think I eat the | flesh of bulls,
or drink the | blood of goats?
14 Offer to God a sacrifice | of thanksgiving
and make good your vows to | the Most High.
15 Call upon me in the | day of trouble;
I will deliver you, and you shall | honor me. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 4:13-25

Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships. For Abraham and for us, a right relationship with God involves trusting that God's promises will be fulfilled because God makes the dead alive and calls into existence what otherwise does not exist.

13 The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to
his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of
faith. 14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is
null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is
no law, neither is there transgression.

16 For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest
on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to
the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham
(who is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, "I have made you the father
of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who
gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not
exist. 18 Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father
of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants
be." 19 He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which
was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and
the barrenness of Sarah's womb. 20 No distrust made him waver concerning
the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to
God, 21 being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had
promised. 22 Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." 23 Now the
words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone 24 but for
ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our
Lord from the dead, 25 who was handed over for our trespasses and was
raised for our justification.

Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable and curing the incurable. Even the dead receive new life.

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the
tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and
followed him.
10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners
came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. 11 When the Pharisees
saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax
collectors and sinners?" 12 But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are
well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 13 Go and learn
what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call
the righteous but sinners."

18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in
and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay
your hand on her, and she will live." 19 And Jesus got up and followed him,
with his disciples. 20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a
flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of
his cloak, 21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be
made well." 22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter;
your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that
moment. 23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players
and the crowd making a commotion, 24 he said, "Go away, for the girl is not
dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him. 25 But when the crowd had
been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got
up. 26 And the report of this spread through all of that district.