

Readings for Sunday, October 18, 2020

First Reading: Isaiah 35:5-8

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;

the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

Psalms 124

¹If the Lord had not been | on our side,
let Isra- | el now say;
²if the Lord had not been | on our side,
when enemies rose | up against us,
³then would they have swallowed us | up alive
in their fierce | anger toward us;
⁴then would the waters have | overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone | over us;
⁵then would the | raging waters

have gone right | over us.
⁶Blessed | be the Lord
who has not given us over to be a prey | for their
teeth. R
⁷We have escaped like a bird from the snare | of the
fowler;
the snare is broken, and we | have escaped.
⁸Our help is in the name | of the Lord,
the maker of heav- | en and earth. R

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 4:5-11

Knowing that death draws near, Paul, a prisoner in Rome, closes his letter to Timothy in a way that exemplifies how Christians face death: thankful for the grace to finish the race and trusting in the final blessing that awaits him in Christ.

⁵As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing. ⁹Do your best to come to me soon, ¹⁰for Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica; Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful in my ministry.

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53

[Luke writes:] ¹Since many have undertaken to set down an orderly account of the events that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed on to us by those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and servants of the word, ³I too decided, after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the truth concerning the things about which you have been instructed.

^{24:44}[Before he ascended, Jesus said to the disciples and their companions:] "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; ⁵³and they were continually in the temple blessing God.