

## First Reading: Acts 16:16-34

*Those who had enslaved a girl and used her powers to tell fortunes threw Paul and Silas into jail for ordering the spirit to come out of her and consequently ruining their business. In prison, Paul and Silas bring the good news of the gospel to the jailer and his family.*

<sup>16</sup>One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup>While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." <sup>18</sup>She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour.

<sup>19</sup>But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. <sup>20</sup>When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews <sup>21</sup>and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." <sup>22</sup>The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup>After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. <sup>24</sup>Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup>About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup>Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. <sup>27</sup>When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. <sup>28</sup>But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." <sup>29</sup>The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup>Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" <sup>31</sup>They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." <sup>32</sup>They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. <sup>33</sup>At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. <sup>34</sup>He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

## Psalm: Psalm 97

<sup>1</sup>The LORD reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of the isles be glad.

<sup>2</sup>**Clouds and darkness surround the LORD, righteousness and justice are the foundations of God's throne.**

<sup>3</sup>Fire goes before the LORD, burning up enemies on every side.

<sup>4</sup>**Lightnings light up the world; the earth sees and trembles.**

<sup>5</sup>The mountains melt like wax before the Lord of all the earth.

<sup>6</sup>**The heavens declare your righteousness, O LORD, and all the peoples see your glory.**

<sup>7</sup>Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods!

Bow down before the LORD, all you gods.

<sup>8</sup>**Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, because of your judgments, O LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; you are exalted far above all gods.

<sup>10</sup>**You who love the LORD, hate evil! God guards the lives of the saints and rescues them from the hand of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup>Light dawns for the righteous, and joy for the honest of heart.

<sup>12</sup>**Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, and give thanks to God's holy name.**

## Second Reading: Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21

*The ascended Christ, hidden from our sight, promises to come again. We eagerly pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," with all who respond to this invitation.*

<sup>12</sup>"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. <sup>13</sup>I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

<sup>14</sup>Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates. <sup>16</sup>"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star."

<sup>17</sup>The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

<sup>20</sup>The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! <sup>21</sup>The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen.

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