

# Daily Reading for Wednesday, February 10th, 2016

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## Reading 1, *Joel 2:12-18*

<sup>12</sup> 'But now -- declares Yahweh- come back to me with all your heart, fasting, weeping, mourning.'

<sup>13</sup> Tear your hearts and not your clothes, and come back to **Yahweh** your God, for he is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger, rich in faithful love, and he relents about inflicting disaster.

<sup>14</sup> Who knows if he **will** not come back, relent and leave a **blessing** behind him, a cereal offering and a libation to be presented to **Yahweh** your God?

<sup>15</sup> Blow the ram's-horn in Zion! Order a fast, proclaim a solemn assembly,

<sup>16</sup> call the people together, summon the community, assemble the elders, gather the children, even infants at the breast! Call the bridegroom from his bedroom and the bride from her bower!

<sup>17</sup> Let the priests, the ministers of Yahweh, stand weeping between portico and altar, saying, 'Spare your people, Yahweh! Do not expose your heritage to the contempt, to the sarcasm of the nations! Why give the peoples **cause** to say, "Where is their God?" '

<sup>18</sup> Then, becoming jealous over his country, **Yahweh** took pity on his people.

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## Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17*

<sup>3</sup> For I am well aware of my offences, my **sin** is constantly in mind.

<sup>4</sup> Against you, you alone, I have sinned, I have done what you see to be wrong, that you may show your saving **justice** when you pass sentence, and your victory may appear when you give judgement,

<sup>5</sup> remember, I was born guilty, a sinner from the moment of conception.

<sup>6</sup> But you delight in sincerity of heart, and in **secret** you teach me wisdom.

<sup>12</sup> Give me back the joy of your salvation, sustain in me a generous spirit.

<sup>13</sup> I shall teach the wicked your paths, and sinners **will** return to you.

<sup>14</sup> Deliver me from bloodshed, God, **God** of my salvation, and my tongue **will** acclaim your saving justice.

<sup>15</sup> Lord, open my lips, and my mouth **will** speak out your praise.

<sup>16</sup> Sacrifice gives you no pleasure, burnt offering you do not desire.

<sup>17</sup> Sacrifice to **God** is a broken spirit, a broken, contrite heart you never scorn.

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## Gospel, *Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18*

<sup>1</sup> 'Be careful not to parade your uprightness in public to attract attention; otherwise you **will** lose all reward from your Father in heaven.

<sup>2</sup> So when you give alms, do not have it trumpeted before you; this is what the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win human admiration. In **truth** I tell you, they have had their reward.

<sup>3</sup> But when you give alms, your left hand must not know what your **right** is doing;

<sup>4</sup> your almsgiving must be secret, and your Father who sees all that is done in **secret will** reward you.

<sup>5</sup> 'And when you pray, do not imitate the hypocrites: they love to say their **prayers** standing up in the synagogues and at the street corners for people to see them. In **truth** I tell you, they have had their reward.

<sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go to your private room, shut yourself in, and so pray to your Father who is in that **secret** place, and your Father who sees all that is done in **secret will** reward you.

<sup>16</sup> 'When you are fasting, do not put on a gloomy look as the hypocrites do: they go about looking unsightly to let people know they are fasting. In **truth** I tell you, they have had their reward.

<sup>17</sup> But when you fast, put scent on your head and wash your face,

<sup>18</sup> so that no one **will** know you are **fasting** except your Father who sees all that is done in secret; and your Father who sees all that is done in **secret will** reward you.

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## Reading 2, *Second Corinthians 5:20--6:2*

<sup>20</sup> So we are ambassadors for Christ; it is as though **God** were urging you through us, and in the name of **Christ** we appeal to you to be reconciled to God.

<sup>2</sup> As he said, 'At the **time** of my favour I have answered you; on the day of **salvation** I have helped you'; well, now is the real **time** of favour, now the day of **salvation** is here.