

## First reading – Psalm 1

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers;

<sup>2</sup>but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law they meditate day and night.

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

<sup>4</sup>The wicked are not so, but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

<sup>6</sup>for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

## Second Reading - Revelation 21:1-16

<sup>21</sup>Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. <sup>2</sup>And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. <sup>3</sup>And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

‘See, the home\* of God is among mortals.

He will dwell\* with them;

they will be his peoples,\*

and God himself will be with them;\*

<sup>4</sup> he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.’

<sup>5</sup> And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ <sup>6</sup>Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. <sup>7</sup>Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children. <sup>8</sup>But as for the cowardly, the faithless,\* the polluted, the murderers, the fornicators, the sorcerers, the

idolaters, and all liars, their place will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.'

9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, 'Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.' <sup>10</sup>And in the spirit\* he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God. <sup>11</sup>It has the glory of God and a radiance like a very rare jewel, like jasper, clear as crystal. <sup>12</sup>It has a great, high wall with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates are inscribed the names of the twelve tribes of the Israelites; <sup>13</sup>on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. <sup>14</sup>And the wall of the city has twelve foundations, and on them are the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The angel\* who talked to me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city and its gates and walls. <sup>16</sup>The city lies foursquare, its length the same as its width; and he measured the city with his rod, fifteen hundred miles;\* its length and width and height are equal.

## **Gospel - Matthew 3:1-10**

3In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, <sup>2</sup>"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." <sup>3</sup>This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" <sup>4</sup>Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, <sup>6</sup>and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

<sup>7</sup>But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? <sup>8</sup>Bear fruit worthy of repentance. <sup>9</sup>Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. <sup>10</sup>Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.