

**FIRST READING: Proverbs 1:20-33** The call of wisdom (NIRV)

<sup>20</sup> Out in the open wisdom calls out. She raises her voice in a public place. <sup>21</sup> On top of the city wall she cries out. Here is what she says near the gate of the city. <sup>22</sup> “How long will you childish people love your childish ways? How long will you rude people enjoy making fun of God and others? How long will you foolish people hate knowledge? <sup>23</sup> Pay attention to my warning! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you. I will make known to you my teachings. <sup>24</sup> But you refuse to listen when I call out to you. No one pays attention when I reach out my hand. <sup>25</sup> You turn away from all my advice. And you do not accept my warning. <sup>26</sup> So I will laugh at you when you are in danger. I will make fun of you when hard times come. <sup>27</sup> I will laugh when hard times hit you like a storm. I will laugh when danger comes your way like a windstorm. I will make fun of you when suffering and trouble come. <sup>28</sup> “Then you will call to me. But I won’t answer. You will look for me. But you won’t find me. <sup>29</sup> You hated knowledge. You didn’t choose to have respect for the LORD. <sup>30</sup> You wouldn’t accept my advice. You turned your backs on my warnings. <sup>31</sup> So you will eat the fruit of the way you have lived. You will choke on the fruit of what you have planned. <sup>32</sup> “The wrong path that childish people take will kill them. Foolish people will be destroyed by being satisfied with the way they live. <sup>33</sup> But those who listen to me will live in safety. They will be at ease and have no fear of being harmed.”

**PSALM: Psalm 19** (NRSV)

<sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims His handiwork. <sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge. <sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words; where their voice is not heard; <sup>4</sup> yet their voice goes out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In the heavens He has set a tent for the sun, <sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy, and like a strong man runs its course with joy. <sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hidden from its heat. <sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure, making wise the simple; <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear, enlightening the eyes; <sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring for ever; the ordinances of the LORD are true and righteous altogether. <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. <sup>11</sup> Moreover by them is Your servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward. <sup>12</sup> But who can detect their errors? Clear me from hidden faults. <sup>13</sup> Keep back Your servant also from the insolent; do not let them have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression. <sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to You, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**SECOND READING: James 3:1-12** Taming the tongue (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> Dear brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers in the church, for we who teach will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> Indeed, we all make many mistakes. For if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way. <sup>3</sup> We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. <sup>4</sup> And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. <sup>7</sup> People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, <sup>8</sup> but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. <sup>10</sup> And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! <sup>11</sup> Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? <sup>12</sup> Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

**GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38** Christ must suffer and die (NRSV, alt)

<sup>27</sup> Jesus went on with His disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He asked His disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' <sup>28</sup> And they answered Him, 'Some say John the Baptist; others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' <sup>29</sup> He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered Him, 'You are the Messiah.' <sup>30</sup> And Jesus sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about Him. <sup>31</sup> Then He began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at His disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind Me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.' <sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become My followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for My sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their soul? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their soul? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of Me and of My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels.'