Daily Reading for Tuesday, June 29th.

Reading 1, *Acts 12:1-11*

1 It was about this <u>time</u> that King <u>Herod</u> started persecuting certain members of the church. 2 He had <u>James</u> the brother of <u>John</u> beheaded, 3 and when he saw that this pleased the <u>Jews</u> he went on to arrest Peter as well. 4 As it was during the days of Unleavened Bread that he had arrested him, he put him in prison, assigning four sections of four soldiers each to guard him, meaning to try him in public after the Passover. 5 All the <u>time</u> Peter was under guard the church prayed to <u>God</u> for him unremittingly. 6 On the night before <u>Herod</u> was to try him, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, fastened with two chains, while guards kept watch at the main entrance to the prison. 7 Then suddenly an <u>angel</u> of the <u>Lord</u> stood there, and the cell was filled with light. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him. 'Get up!' he said, 'Hurry!' -- and the chains fell from his hands. 8 The <u>angel</u> then said, 'Put on your belt and sandals.' After he had done this, the <u>angel</u> next said, 'Wrap your cloak round you and follow me.' 9 He followed him out, but had no <u>idea</u> that what the <u>angel</u> did was all happening in reality; he thought he was seeing a vision. 10 They passed through the first guard post and then the second and reached the iron gate leading to the city. This opened of its own accord; they went through it and had walked the whole length of one street when suddenly the <u>angel</u> left him. 11 It was only then that Peter came to himself. And he said, 'Now I know it is all true. The <u>Lord</u> really did send his <u>angel</u> and save me from <u>Herod</u> and from all that the <u>Jewish</u> people were expecting.'

Responsorial Psalm, *Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9*

2 I <u>will</u> praise <u>Yahweh</u> from my heart; let the humble hear and rejoice.

3 Proclaim with me the greatness of Yahweh, let us acclaim his name together.

4 I seek <u>Yahweh</u> and he answers me, frees me from all my fears. 5 Fix your gaze on <u>Yahweh</u> and your face <u>will</u> grow bright, you <u>will</u> never hang your head in shame.

6 A pauper calls out and <u>Yahweh</u> hears, saves him from all his troubles.

7 The <u>angel</u> of <u>Yahweh</u> encamps around those who fear him, and rescues them.

8 Taste and see that <u>Yahweh</u> is good. How blessed are those who take refuge in him. 9 Fear Yahweh, you his holy ones; those who fear him lack for nothing

Reading 2, *Second Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18*

6 As for me, my <u>life</u> is already being poured away as a libation, and the <u>time</u> has come for me to depart. 7 I have fought the <u>good</u> fight to the end; I have run the race to the finish; I have kept the faith; 8 all there is to come for me now is the crown of uprightness which the Lord, the upright judge, <u>will</u> give to me on that Day; and not only to me but to all those who have longed for his appearing. 17 But the <u>Lord</u> stood by me and gave me power, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed for all the <u>gentiles</u> to hear; and so I was saved from the lion's mouth. 18 The <u>Lord</u> <u>will</u> rescue me from all <u>evil</u> attempts on me, and bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be <u>glory</u> for ever and ever. Amen.

Gospel, *Matthew 16:13-19*

[13] When <u>Jesus</u> came to the region of
Caesarea <u>Philippi</u> he put this question to his disciples,
'Who do people say the Son of <u>man</u> is?' [14] And they
said, 'Some say <u>John</u> the Baptist, some Elijah, and
others <u>Jeremiah</u> or one of the prophets.' [15] 'But you,' he
said, 'who do you say I am?' [16] Then <u>Simon Peter</u> spoke
up and said, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living
God.' [17] Jesus replied, 'Simon son of Jonah, you are a
blessed man! Because it was no human agency that
revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. [18] So I
now say to you: You are Peter and on this rock
I <u>will</u> build my community. And the gates of the
underworld can never overpower it. [19] I <u>will</u> give you the
keys of the kingdom of Heaven: whatever you bind on
earth <u>will</u> be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on
earth <u>will</u> be loosed in heaven.'