Responsive Reading : Psalm 73

Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

**But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, my steps had nearly slipped.**

For I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

**For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.**

They are not in trouble as others are; they are not stricken like the rest of mankind.

**Therefore pride is their necklace; violence covers them as a garment.**

Their eyes swell out through fatness; their hearts overflow with follies.

**They scoff and speak with malice; loftily they threaten oppression.**

They set their mouths against the heavens, and their tongue struts through the earth.

**Therefore his people turn back to them, and find no fault in them.**

And they say, “How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?”

**Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.**

All in vain have I kept my heart clean and washed my hands in innocence.

**For all the day long I have been stricken and rebuked every morning.**

If I had said, “I will speak thus,” I would have betrayed the generation of your children.

But when I thought how to understand this, it seemed to me a wearisome task,

**until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.**

Truly you set them in slippery places; you make them fall to ruin.

**How they are destroyed in a moment, swept away utterly by terrors!**

Like a dream when one awakes, O Lord, when you rouse yourself, you despise them as phantoms.

**When my soul was embittered, when I was pricked in heart,**

I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.

**Nevertheless, I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.**

You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.

W**hom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.**

My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.

**For behold, those who are far from you shall perish; you put an end to everyone who is unfaithful to you.**

But for me it is good to be near God;

**I have made the Lord GOD my refuge, that I may tell of all your works.**