

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
you have given your only Son to die for
our sins
and to rise again for our justification:
grant us so to put away the leaven of
malice and wickedness
that we may always serve you
in pureness of living and truth;
through the merits of your Son Jesus
Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 4:32-35

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

Or Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20-21

PSALM Psalm 133

R *Mercy and truth are met together, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.*

Behold how good and pleasant it is to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious oil upon the head, running down upon the beard, Even on Aaron's beard, running down upon the collar of his clothing. R

It is like the dew of Hermon running down upon the hills of Zion. For there the Lord has promised his blessing: even life for evermore. R



SECOND READING

Either 1 John 1:1 – 2:2

A reading from the first letter of John.

We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life – this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us – we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; but if we walk in the light as he himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

Or Acts 4:32-35

GOSPEL John 20:19-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

It was evening on the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said

this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

POST COMMUNION

Lord God our Father,
through our Saviour Jesus Christ
you have assured your children of
eternal life
and in baptism have made us one with
him:
deliver us from the death of sin
and raise us to new life in your love,
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
 who in your great mercy gladdened
 the disciples
 with the sight of the risen Lord:
 give us such knowledge of his
 presence with us,
 that we may be strengthened and
 sustained by his risen life
 and serve you continually in
 righteousness and truth;
 through Jesus Christ your Son our
 Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 3:12-19

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Peter addressed the people, "You Israelites, why do you wonder at this, or why do you stare at us, as though by our own power or piety we had made him walk? The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our ancestors has glorified his servant Jesus, whom you handed over and rejected in the presence of Pilate, though he had decided to release him. But you rejected the Holy and Righteous One and asked to have a murderer given to you, and you killed the Author of life, whom God raised from the dead. To this we are witnesses. And by faith in his name, his name itself has made this man strong, whom you see and know; and the faith that is through Jesus has given him this perfect health in the presence of all of you. And now, friends, I know that you acted in ignorance, as did also your rulers. In this way God fulfilled what he had foretold through all the prophets, that his Messiah would suffer. Repent therefore, and turn to God so that your sins may be wiped out."

Or Zephaniah 3:14-end

PSALM Psalm 4

R *In peace, in peace I will lie down and sleep.*

Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness;
 you set me at liberty when I was in trouble;
 have mercy on me and hear my prayer.
 How long will you nobles dishonour my glory;
 how long will you love vain things and seek after falsehood? **R**

But know that the Lord has shown me his marvellous kindness;
 when I call upon the Lord, he will hear me.

Stand in awe, and sin not;
 commune with your own heart upon your bed, and be still. **R**

Offer the sacrifices of righteousness and put your trust in the Lord.

There are many that say, "Who will show us any good?"

Lord, lift up the light of your countenance upon us.

You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their corn and wine and oil increase.

In peace I will lie down and sleep, for it is you Lord, only, who make me dwell in safety. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 John 3:1-7

A reading from the first letter of John.

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure. Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive

you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

Or Acts 3:12-19

GOSPEL Luke 24:36b-48

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

While the eleven and their companions were talking about what they had heard, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of broiled fish, and he took it and ate in their presence. Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you – that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

POST COMMUNION

Living God,
 your Son made himself known to his disciples
 in the breaking of bread:
 open the eyes of our faith,
 that we may see him in all his redeeming work;
 who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things which
are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be
read as either the First or Second
Reading.

Either Acts 4:5-12

A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.

The Jewish rulers, elders, and
scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with
Annas the high priest, Caiaphas,
John, and Alexander, and all who
were of the high-priestly family.
When they had made the prisoners
stand in their midst, they inquired,
"By what power or by what name
did you do this?" Then Peter, filled
with the Holy Spirit, said to them,
"Rulers of the people and elders, if
we are questioned today because of
a good deed done to someone who
was sick and are asked how this man
has been healed, let it be known
to all of you, and to all the people
of Israel, that this man is standing
before you in good health by the
name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth,
whom you crucified, whom God
raised from the dead. This Jesus
is 'the stone that was rejected by
you, the builders; it has become the
cornerstone.' There is salvation in no
one else, for there is no other name
under heaven given among mortals
by which we must be saved."

Or Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18;
8:6-18; 9:8-13

PSALM Psalm 23

R I will dwell in your house for ever.

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they
comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who
trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving mercy
shall follow me all the days of my
life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 John 3:16-end

A reading from the first letter of
John.

We know love by this, that the
Son of God laid down his life for
us – and we ought to lay down our
lives for one another. How does
God's love abide in anyone who
has the world's goods and sees a
brother or sister in need and yet
refuses help? Little children, let us
love, not in word or speech, but
in truth and action. And by this
we will know that we are from the
truth and will reassure our hearts
before him whenever our hearts
condemn us; for God is greater
than our hearts, and he knows
everything. Beloved, if our hearts do
not condemn us, we have boldness
before God; and we receive from
him whatever we ask, because we
obey his commandments and do
what pleases God. And this is his

commandment, that we should
believe in the name of his Son Jesus
Christ and love one another, just as
he has commanded us. All who obey
his commandments abide in him,
and he abides in them. And by this
we know that he abides in us, by the
Spirit that he has given us.

Or Acts 4:5-12

GOSPEL John 10:11-18

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "I am the
good shepherd. The good shepherd
lays down his life for the sheep. The
hired hand, who is not the shepherd
and does not own the sheep, sees
the wolf coming and leaves the
sheep and runs away – and the wolf
snatches them and scatters them. The
hired hand runs away because a hired
hand does not care for the sheep. I
am the good shepherd. I know my
own and my own know me, just as
the Father knows me and I know the
Father. And I lay down my life for the
sheep. I have other sheep that do
not belong to this fold. I must bring
them also, and they will listen to my
voice. So there will be one flock, one
shepherd. For this reason the Father
loves me, because I lay down my life
in order to take it up again. No one
takes it from me, but I lay it down of
my own accord. I have power to lay it
down, and I have power to take it up
again. I have received this command
from my Father."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to
be the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his
life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his
steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
 who through your only-begotten Son
 Jesus Christ
 have overcome death and opened to us
 the gate of everlasting life:
 grant that, as by your grace going before
 us you put into our minds good desires,
 so by your continual help
 we may bring them to good effect;
 through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 8:26-end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
 An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him

no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Or Baruch 3:9-15. 32 – 4:4

Or Genesis 22:1-18

PSALM Psalm 22:25-end

R *Be not far from me, O Lord.*

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
 I will perform my vows
 in the presence of those that fear you.
 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
 those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
 their hearts shall live for ever. **R**

All the ends of the earth
 shall remember and turn to the Lord,
 and all the families of the nations shall
 bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's
 and he rules over the nations. **R**

How can those who sleep in the earth
 bow down in worship,
 or those who go down to the dust kneel
 before him?
 He has saved my life for himself;
 my descendants shall serve him;
 this shall be told of the Lord for
 generations to come.
 They shall come and make known his
 salvation,
 to a people yet unborn,
 declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 John 4:7-end

A reading from the first letter of John.
 Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God

abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Or Acts 8:26-end

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
 whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the
 truth, and the life:
 grant us to walk in his way,
 to rejoice in his truth,
 and to share his risen life;
 who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



Be not far from me, O Lord.

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power
of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of
your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has
recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he
may raise us to eternal joy;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be read
as either the First or Second Reading.*

Either Acts 10:44-end

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Or Isaiah 55:1-11

PSALM Psalm 98

R *The Lord has made known his
salvation.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.
The Lord has made known his
salvation;

his deliverance has he openly shown
in the sight of the nations. **R**

He has remembered his mercy and
faithfulness
towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have
seen the salvation of our God.
Sound praises to the Lord, all the
earth;
break into singing and make music. **R**

Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of
melody.
With trumpets and the sound of the
horn
sound praises before the Lord, the
King. **R**

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together
before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the
world
and the peoples with equity. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 John 5:1-6

A reading from the first letter of John.

Everyone who believes that Jesus
is the Christ has been born of
God, and everyone who loves the
parent loves the child. By this we
know that we love the children
of God, when we love God and
obey his commandments. For
the love of God is this, that we
obey his commandments. And his
commandments are not burdensome,
for whatever is born of God conquers
the world. And this is the victory that
conquers the world, our faith. Who is
it that conquers the world but the one
who believes that Jesus is the Son of
God? This is the one who came by
water and blood, Jesus Christ, not
with the water only but with the water

and the blood. And the Spirit is the
one that testifies, for the Spirit is the
truth.

Or Acts 10:44-end

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to John.*

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the
Father has loved me, so I have loved
you; abide in my love. If you keep my
commandments, you will abide in my
love, just as I have kept my Father's
commandments and abide in his love.
I have said these things to you so
that my joy may be in you, and that
your joy may be complete. This is my
commandment, that you love one
another as I have loved you. No one
has greater love than this, to lay down
one's life for one's friends. You are
my friends if you do what I command
you. I do not call you servants any
longer, because the servant does not
know what the master is doing; but
I have called you friends, because I
have made known to you everything
that I have heard from my Father.
You did not choose me but I chose
you. And I appointed you to go and
bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that
the Father will give you whatever you
ask him in my name. I am giving you
these commands so that you may love
one another."

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the
water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of
goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.



COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
 you have exalted your only Son Jesus
 Christ
 with great triumph to your kingdom in
 heaven:
 we beseech you, leave us not
 comfortless,
 but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen
 us
 and exalt us to the place where our
 Saviour Christ is gone before,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 1:15-17. 21-end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus – for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Or Ezekiel 36:24-28

PSALM Psalm 1

R *The Lord knows the way of the righteous.*



Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful. Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.

Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, whatever they do, it shall prosper. **R**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 John 5:9-13

A reading from the first letter of John.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Or Acts 1:15-17. 21-end

GOSPEL John 17:6-19

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: "Father, I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the

world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world

to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:

grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 2:1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their native language. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs

on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Or Ezekiel 37:1-14

PSALM Psalm 104:26-36. 37b

R I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great. **R**

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. **R**

When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good. When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust. When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. **R**

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works; He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being. **R**

So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia. **R**

Or Psalm 104:26-end

SECOND READING

Either Romans 8:22-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labour pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Or Acts 2:1-21

GOSPEL John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

Jesus spoke to his disciples: "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

POST COMMUNION

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you have given us your servants grace,
by the confession of a true faith,
to acknowledge the glory of the eternal
Trinity
and in the power of the divine majesty to
worship the Unity:
keep us steadfast in this faith,
that we may evermore be defended from
all adversities;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

PSALM Psalm 29

R *The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*



Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
the God of glory thunders;
the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **R**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
and strips the forests bare;
in his temple all cry, "Glory!" **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
The Lord shall give strength to his people;
the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh – for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come

from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty and eternal God,
you have revealed yourself as Father, Son
and Holy Spirit,
and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
hold us firm in this faith,
that we may know you in all your ways
and evermore rejoice in your eternal
glory,
who are three Persons yet one God,
now and for ever.



COLLECT

O God,
the strength of all those who put their
trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of
our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your
commandments
we may please you both in will and
deed;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Deuteronomy 5:12-15**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

The LORD says this: Observe the sabbath day and keep it holy, as the LORD your God commanded you. For six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, or your son or your daughter, or your male or female slave, or your ox or your donkey, or any of your livestock, or the resident alien in your towns, so that your male and female slave may rest as well as you. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt, and the LORD your God brought you out from there with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm; therefore the LORD your God commanded you to keep the sabbath day.

Or **1 Samuel 3:1-10 [11-20]**

PSALM Psalm 81:1-10

R *O come, let us sing to the Lord.*

Sing merrily to God our strength
shout for joy to the God of Jacob.
Take up the song and sound the timbrel
the tuneful lyre with the harp. **R**

Blow the trumpet at the new moon,
as at the full moon, upon our solemn
feast day.
For this is a statute for Israel, a law of
the God of Jacob.

The charge he laid on the people of Joseph,
when they came out of the land of Egypt. **R**

I heard a voice I did not know, that said:
"I eased their shoulder from the burden;
their hands were set free from bearing the load.

You called upon me in trouble and I delivered you; **R**

"I answered you from the secret place of thunder and proved you at the waters of Meribah.

Hear, O my people, and I will admonish you:

O Israel, if you would but listen to me! **R**

"There shall be no strange god among you;
you shall not worship a foreign god. I am the Lord your God,
who brought you up from the land of Egypt;
open your mouth wide and I shall fill it." **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:5-12

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies. For while we live, we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be made visible in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

GOSPEL Mark 2:23 – 3:6

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

One sabbath Jesus was going through the cornfields; and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the sabbath?" And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food? He entered the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions." Then he said to them, "The sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the sabbath; so the Son of Man is lord even of the sabbath." Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. They watched him to see whether he would cure him on the sabbath, so that they might accuse him. And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." Then he said to the Pharisees, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against Jesus, how to destroy him.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in
faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us that all our doings without love are nothing worth: send your Holy Spirit and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love, the true bond of peace and of all virtues, without which whoever lives is counted dead before you. Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Genesis 3:8-15**

A reading from the book of Genesis. The man and the woman heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Or **1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15]**

PSALM Psalm 130

R My soul waits for the Lord.

Out of the depths have I cried to you, O Lord;



My soul waits for the Lord.

Lord, hear my voice; let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication. If you, Lord, were to mark what is done amiss, O Lord, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with you, so that you shall be feared. **R**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him; in his word is my hope. My soul waits for the Lord, more than the night watch for the morning, more than the night watch for the morning. **R**

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is mercy; With him is plenteous redemption and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture – "I believed, and so I spoke" – we also believe, and so we speak, because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

GOSPEL Mark 3:20-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

The crowd came together again, so that Jesus and his companions could not

even eat. When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered. Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin" – for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit." Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

POST COMMUNION

Loving Father, we thank you for feeding us at the supper of your Son: sustain us with your Spirit, that we may serve you here on earth until our joy is complete in heaven, and we share in the eternal banquet with Jesus Christ our Lord.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son
into our hearts whereby we call you
Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom
to your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children
of God;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Ezekiel 17:22-end**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar; I will set it out. I will break off a tender one from the topmost of its young twigs; I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel I will plant it, in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit, and become a noble cedar. Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind. All the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD. I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree; I dry up the green tree and make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD have spoken; I will accomplish it.

Or **1 Samuel 15:34 – 16:13**

PSALM Psalm 92:1-4. 12-end
[or 92:1-8]

R *You, O Lord, shall be exalted for evermore.*

It is a good thing to give thanks to the Lord
and to sing praises to your name,
O Most High;
To tell of your love early in the morning
and of your faithfulness in the night-
time,
Upon the ten-stringed instrument, upon
the harp,
and to the melody of the lyre. **R**



You, O Lord, shall be ex - al - ted for ev - er more.

For you, Lord, have made me glad by
your acts,
and I sing aloud at the works of your
hands.
The righteous shall flourish like a palm
tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of
Lebanon.
Such as are planted in the house of the
Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God. **R**
They shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be vigorous and in full leaf;
That they may show that the Lord is
true; he is my rock,
and there is no unrighteousness in him. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters, we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord – for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgement seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. [Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you.] The love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point

of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Such a large crowd gathered around Jesus that he got into a boat and began to teach them using many parables. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come." Jesus also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

POST COMMUNION

O God, whose beauty is beyond our
imagining
and whose power we cannot
comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can
grasp it,
and shield us from knowing more than
we can bear
until we may look upon you without
fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Job 38:1-11**

A reading from the book of Job.

The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements – surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy? Or who shut in the sea with doors when it burst out from the womb? – when I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band, and prescribed bounds for it, and set bars and doors, and said, 'Thus far shall you come, and no farther, and here shall your proud waves be stopped?'"

Or **1 Samuel 17:[1a. 4-11. 19-23] 32-49**

PSALM Psalm 107:1-3. 23-32
[or 107:23-32]

R O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gracious,
for his steadfast love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say this,
those he redeemed from the hand of the enemy,
And gathered out of the lands
from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south. **R**

Those who go down to the sea in ships
and ply their trade in great waters,
These have seen the works of the Lord
and his wonders in the deep.
For at his word the stormy wind arose
and lifted up the waves of the sea. **R**

They were carried up to the heavens
and down again to the deep;
their soul melted away in their peril.
They reeled and staggered like a drunkard
and were at their wits' end.
Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble,
and he brought them out of their distress. **R**

He made the storm be still
and the waves of the sea were calmed.
Then were they glad because they were at rest,
and he brought them to the haven they desired.
Let them give thanks to the Lord for his goodness
and the wonders he does for his children.
Let them exalt him in the congregation of the people
and praise him in the council of the elders. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 6:1-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

As we work together with Christ, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. For he says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger;

by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see – we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. In return – I speak as to children – open wide your hearts also.

GOSPEL Mark 4:35-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go across to the other side." And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
comfort of the afflicted and healer of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and peace,
that all the world may acknowledge the kingdom of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is gra - cious, for his
stead - fast love en - dures - for ev - er.

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church
is governed and sanctified:
hear our prayer which we offer for all your
faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Wisdom of Solomon 1:13-15; 2:23-24**
A reading from the book of *Wisdom*.

God did not make death, and he does not
delight in the death of the living. For he
created all things so that they might exist; the
generative forces of the world are wholesome,
and there is no destructive poison in them,
and the dominion of Hades is not on earth. For
righteousness is immortal. For God created
us for incorruption, and made us in the image
of his own eternity, but through the devil's
envy death entered the world, and those who
belong to his company experience it.

*The Canticle (Lamentations 3:23-33) may be
used in place of Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 as
the First Reading.*

Or **2 Samuel 1:1. 17-end**

CANTICLE OR PSALM

Either **Lamentations 3:23-33**

R *The Lord is good to those who wait for him.*

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness. **R**

"The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
It is good that one should wait quietly for the
salvation of the LORD. **R**

It is good for one to bear the yoke in youth,
to sit alone in silence when the Lord has
imposed it,
to put one's mouth to the dust (there may yet
be hope),
to give one's cheek to the smiter,
and be filled with insults. **R**

For the Lord will not reject for ever.
Although he causes grief,
he will have compassion according to the
abundance of his steadfast love;
for he does not willingly afflict or grieve
anyone. **R**

Or **Psalm 30**

R *You brought me up, O Lord, from the
dead.*



I will exalt you, O Lord,
because you have raised me up



You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead.

and have not let my foes triumph over me.
O Lord my God, I cried out to you
and you have healed me.
You brought me up, O Lord, from the dead;
you restored me to life from among those that
go down to the Pit. **R**

Sing to the Lord, you servants of his;
give thanks to his holy name.
For his wrath endures but the twinkling of an eye,
his favour for a lifetime.
Heaviness may endure for a night,
but joy comes in the morning. **R**

In my prosperity I said,
"I shall never be moved.
You, Lord, of your goodness,
have made my hill so strong."
Then you hid your face from me
and I was utterly dismayed.
To you, O Lord, I cried;
to the Lord I made my supplication: **R**

"What profit is there in my blood,
if I go down to the Pit?
Will the dust praise you or declare your
faithfulness?
"Hear, O Lord, and have mercy upon me;
O Lord, be my helper." **R**

You have turned my mourning into dancing;
you have put off my sackcloth and girded me
with gladness;
Therefore my heart sings to you without
ceasing;
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks for ever. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 8:7-end

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the
Corinthians.

You excel in everything – in faith, in speech,
in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our
love for you – so we want you to excel also in
this generous undertaking. I do not say this as a
command, but I am testing the genuineness of
your love against the earnestness of others. For
you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus
Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your
sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty
you might become rich. And in this matter I
am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you
who began last year not only to do something
but even to desire to do something – now
finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be
matched by completing it according to your
means. For if the eagerness is there, the gift
is acceptable according to what one has – not
according to what one does not have. I do not
mean that there should be relief for others and
pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair
balance between your present abundance and
their need, so that their abundance may be for
your need, in order that there may be a fair
balance. As it is written, "The one who had
much did not have too much, and the one who
had little did not have too little."

GOSPEL Mark 5:21-end

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Mark.*

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat
to the other side, a great crowd gathered
around him; and he was by the lake. Then
one of the leaders of the synagogue named
Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his
feet and begged him repeatedly, "My little
daughter is at the point of death. Come and
lay your hands on her, so that she may be
made well, and live." So he went with him.
And a large crowd followed him and pressed
in on him. Now there was a woman who had
been suffering from haemorrhages for twelve
years. She had endured much under many
physicians, and had spent all that she had; and
she was no better, but rather grew worse. She
had heard about Jesus, and came up behind
him in the crowd and touched his cloak, for
she said, "If I but touch his clothes, I will be
made well." Immediately her haemorrhage
stopped; and she felt in her body that she was
healed of her disease. Immediately aware that
power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned
about in the crowd and said, "Who touched
my clothes?" And his disciples said to him,
"You see the crowd pressing in on you; how
can you say, 'Who touched me?'" He looked
all around to see who had done it. But the
woman, knowing what had happened to her,
came in fear and trembling, fell down before
him, and told him the whole truth. He said to
her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well;
go in peace, and be healed of your disease."
While he was still speaking, some people came
from the leader's house to say, "Your daughter
is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?"
But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to
the leader of the synagogue, "Do not fear,
only believe." He allowed no one to follow him
except Peter, James, and John, the brother of
James. When they came to the house of the
leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion,
people weeping and wailing loudly. When he
had entered, he said to them, "Why do you
make a commotion and weep? The child is not
dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.
Then he put them all outside, and took the
child's father and mother and those who were
with him, and went in where the child was. He
took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha
cum," which means, "Little girl, get up!" And
immediately the girl got up and began to
walk about (she was twelve years of age). At
this they were overcome with amazement. He
strictly ordered them that no one should know
this, and told them to give her something to
eat.

POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be so
peaceably ordered by your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve you in all
godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.