

COLLECT

Merciful God,
 you have prepared for those who love
 you
 such good things as pass our
 understanding:
 pour into our hearts such love toward
 you
 that we, loving you in all things and
 above all things,
 may obtain your promises,
 which exceed all that we can desire;
 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 2:1-5**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. When I saw this, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking. He said to me: O mortal, stand on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Or **2 Samuel 5:1-5. 9-10**

PSALM Psalm 123

R *Our eyes wait upon the Lord our God.*

To you I lift up my eyes,
 to you that are enthroned in the
 heavens.

As the eyes of servants look to the
 hand of their master,

Our eyes wait up - on the Lord - our God.

or the eyes of a maid to the hand of
 her mistress,
 So our eyes wait upon the Lord our
 God,
 until he have mercy upon us. **R**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have
 mercy upon us,
 for we have had more than enough of
 contempt.
 Our soul has had more than enough
 of the scorn of the arrogant,
 and of the contempt of the proud. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

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

I know a person in Christ who
 fourteen years ago was caught up
 to the third heaven – whether in the
 body or out of the body I do not
 know; God knows. And I know that
 such a person – whether in the body
 or out of the body I do not know;
 God knows – was caught up into
 Paradise and heard things that are not
 to be told, that no mortal is permitted
 to repeat. On behalf of such a one I
 will boast, but on my own behalf I will
 not boast, except of my weaknesses.
 But if I wish to boast, I will not be a
 fool, for I will be speaking the truth.
 But I refrain from it, so that no one
 may think better of me than what is
 seen in me or heard from me, even
 considering the exceptional character
 of the revelations. Therefore, to keep
 me from being too elated, a thorn was
 given me in the flesh, a messenger
 of Satan to torment me, to keep me
 from being too elated. Three times I
 appealed to the Lord about this, that
 it would leave me, but he said to me,
 "My grace is sufficient for you, for
 power is made perfect in weakness."
 So, I will boast all the more gladly of
 my weaknesses, so that the power
 of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore
 I am content with weaknesses,
 insults, hardships, persecutions, and
 calamities for the sake of Christ;
 for whenever I am weak, then I am
 strong.

GOSPEL Mark 6:1-13

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

Jesus came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
 you have led us to the living water:
 refresh and sustain us
 as we go forward on our journey,
 in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.