

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and
govern both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the
works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty
protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
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 **Jeremiah 23:1-6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy
and scatter the sheep of my pasture!
says the LORD. Therefore thus says the
LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the
shepherds who shepherd my people:
It is you who have scattered my flock,
and have driven them away, and you
have not attended to them. So I will
attend to you for your evil doings, says
the LORD. Then I myself will gather
the remnant of my flock out of all the
lands where I have driven them, and I
will bring them back to their fold, and
they shall be fruitful and multiply. I
will raise up shepherds over them who
will shepherd them, and they shall not
fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor
shall any be missing, says the LORD.
The days are surely coming, says the
LORD, when I will raise up for David a
righteous Branch, and he shall reign as
king and deal wisely, and shall execute
justice and righteousness in the land. In
his days Judah will be saved and Israel
will live in safety. And this is the name
by which he will be called: "The LORD
is our righteousness."

Or **2 Samuel 7:1-14a**

PSALM Psalm 23

R *I will dwell in the house of the Lord
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

Ephesians 2:11-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Remember that at one time you
Gentiles by birth, called "the
uncircumcision" by those who are
called "the circumcision" – a physical
circumcision made in the flesh by
human hands – remember that you were
at that time without Christ, being aliens
from the commonwealth of Israel, and
strangers to the covenants of promise,
having no hope and without God in the
world. But now in Christ Jesus you who
once were far off have been brought
near by the blood of Christ. For he is
our peace; in his flesh he has made both
groups into one and has broken down
the dividing wall, that is, the hostility
between us. He has abolished the law
with its commandments and ordinances,
that he might create in himself one
new humanity in place of the two, thus
making peace, and might reconcile both
groups to God in one body through
the cross, thus putting to death that
hostility through it. So he came and
proclaimed peace to you who were far
off and peace to those who were near;
for through him both of us have access
in one Spirit to the Father. So then you
are no longer strangers and aliens, but
you are citizens with the saints and also
members of the household of God, built

upon the foundation of the apostles
and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself
as the cornerstone. In him the whole
structure is joined together and grows
into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom
you also are built together spiritually into
a dwelling-place for God.

GOSPEL Mark 6:30-34. 53-end

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

The apostles returned from their
mission. They gathered around Jesus,
and told him all that they had done and
taught. He said to them, "Come away to
a deserted place all by yourselves and
rest a while." For many were coming
and going, and they had no leisure even
to eat. And they went away in the boat
to a deserted place by themselves. Now
many saw them going and recognized
them, and they hurried there on foot
from all the towns and arrived ahead
of them. As he went ashore, he saw a
great crowd; and he had compassion
for them, because they were like sheep
without a shepherd; and he began to
teach them many things. When they
had crossed over, they came to land
at Gennesaret and moored the boat.
When they got out of the boat, people
at once recognized him, and rushed
about that whole region and began
to bring the sick on mats to wherever
they heard he was. And wherever he
went, into villages or cities or farms,
they laid the sick in the market-places,
and begged him that they might touch
even the fringe of his cloak; and all who
touched it were healed.

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your
word be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the
tokens of your love shine with the
light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been
fed with your body be refreshed with
the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

[Organ]

I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.