

Collect

Merciful Lord, cast your bright beams of light upon the Church: that, being enlightened by the teaching of your blessed apostle and evangelist Saint John, we may so walk in the light of your truth that we may at last attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ your incarnate 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:

1 John 1

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— ² 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— ³ 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. ⁴ We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵ 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. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷ 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. ⁸ If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹ If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

Gospel: John 21:19b-end

After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

²⁰ Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; he was the one who had reclined next to Jesus at the supper and had said, 'Lord, who is it

that is going to betray you?' ²¹ When Peter saw him, he said to Jesus, 'Lord, what about him?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you? Follow me!' ²³ So the rumour spread in the community that this disciple would not die. Yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but, 'If it is my will that he remain until I come, what is that to you?'

²⁴ This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and has written them, and we know that his testimony is true. ²⁵ But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.

Post Communion Prayer

Grant, O Lord, we pray, that the Word made flesh proclaimed by your apostle John may, by the celebration of these holy mysteries, ever abide and live within us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect

Almighty God,
in the birth of your Son
you have poured on us
the new light of your
incarnate Word,
and shown us the
fullness of your love:
help us to walk in his
light and dwell in his
love
that we may know the
fullness of his joy;
who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy
Spirit, one God, now
and for ever.

**First Reading: Jeremiah
31:7-14**

⁷For thus says the LORD:
Sing aloud with gladness
for Jacob,
and raise shouts for
the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise,
and say, 'Save, O LORD,
your people, the
remnant of Israel.'
⁸See, I am going to bring
them from the land of
the north, and gather
them from the farthest
parts of the earth,
among them the blind
and the lame,

those with child and
those in labour,
together;
a great company, they
shall return here.
⁹With weeping they
shall come,
and with consolations I
will lead them back,
I will let them walk by
brooks of water,
in a straight path in
which they shall not
stumble;
for I have become a
father to Israel, and
Ephraim is my firstborn.
¹⁰Hear the word of
the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the
coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered
Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a
shepherd a flock.'
¹¹For the LORD has
ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed
him from hands too
strong for him.
¹²They shall come and
sing aloud on the height
of Zion, and they shall be
radiant over the
goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine,
and the oil,

and over the young of
the flock and the herd;
their life shall become
like a watered garden,
and they shall never
languish again.
¹³Then shall the young
women rejoice in the
dance, and the young
men and the old shall be
merry.
I will turn their mourning
into joy, I will comfort
them, and give them
gladness for sorrow.
¹⁴I will give the priests
their fill of fatness, and
my people shall be
satisfied with my
bounty, says the LORD.

**Second Reading:
Ephesians 1:3-14**

³Blessed be the God and
Father of our Lord Jesus
Christ, who has blessed us
in Christ with every
spiritual blessing in the
heavenly places, ⁴just as
he chose us in
Christ before the
foundation of the world to
be holy and blameless
before him in love. ⁵He
destined us for adoption
as his children through
Jesus Christ, according to
the good pleasure of his

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will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷ In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸ that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹ he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹ In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹² so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had

believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴ this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

Gospel: John 1:10-18

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified to him and

cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') ¹⁶ From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Post Communion Prayer

All praise to you, almighty God and heavenly king, who sent your Son into the world to take our nature upon him and to be born of a pure virgin: grant that, as we are born again in him, so he may continually dwell in us and reign on earth as he reigns in heaven, now and for ever.