

COLLECT

Almighty God,
 you have knit together your elect
 in one communion and fellowship
 in the mystical body of your Son
 Christ our Lord:
 grant us grace so to follow your
 blessed saints
 in all virtuous and godly living
 that we may come to those
 inexpressible joys
 that you have prepared for those
 who truly love you;
 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

Revelation 7:9-end

A reading from the book of Revelation.

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the

throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

PSALM Psalm 34:1-10

R *I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.*

I will bless the Lord at all times;
 his praise shall ever be in my mouth.
 My soul shall glory in the Lord;
 let the humble hear and be glad. **R**

O magnify the Lord with me;
 let us exalt his name together.
 I sought the Lord and he answered
 me
 and delivered me from all my fears. **R**

Look upon him and be radiant
 and your faces shall not be ashamed.
 This poor soul cried, and the Lord
 heard me and saved me from all my
 troubles. **R**

The angel of the Lord encamps
 around those who fear him
 and delivers them.
 O taste and see that the Lord is
 gracious;
 blessed is the one who trusts in
 him. **R**

Fear the Lord, all you his holy ones,
 for those who fear him lack nothing.
 Lions may lack and suffer hunger,
 but those who seek the Lord
 lack nothing that is good. **R**

SECOND READING 1 John 3:1-3

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.

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12

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

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

POST COMMUNION

God, the source of all holiness
 and giver of all good things:
 may we who have shared at this
 table as strangers and pilgrims
 here on earth
 be welcomed with all your saints
 to the heavenly feast on the day of
 your kingdom;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.



I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the King of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those
in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages
of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle
rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)

Either **Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16**

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those
who love her, and is found by those
who seek her. She hastens to make
herself known to those who desire
her. One who rises early to seek
her will have no difficulty, for she
will be found sitting at the gate. To
fix one's thought on her is perfect
understanding, and one who is
vigilant on her account will soon be
free from care, because she goes
about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in
their paths, and meets them in every
thought.

Or **Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Alas for you who desire the day of
the LORD! Why do you want the day
of the LORD? It is darkness, not light;
as if someone fled from a lion, and
was met by a bear; or went into the
house and rested a hand against the
wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not
the day of the LORD darkness, not
light, and gloom with no brightness
in it? I hate, I despise your festivals,
and I take no delight in your solemn
assemblies. Even though you offer
me your burnt-offerings and grain-

offerings, I will not accept them; and
the offerings of well-being of your
fatted animals I will not look upon.
Take away from me the noise of your
songs; I will not listen to the melody
of your harps. But let justice roll down
like waters, and righteousness like an
ever-flowing stream.

PSALM Psalm 70

R *Come to me quickly, O God.*

O God, make speed to save me;
O Lord, make haste to help me.

Let those who seek my life
be put to shame and confusion;
let them be turned back and
disgraced
who wish me evil.

Let those who mock and deride me
turn back because of their shame. **R**

But let all who seek you rejoice and
be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say
always, "Great is the Lord!"

As for me, I am poor and needy;
come to me quickly, O God.

You are my help and my deliverer;
O Lord, do not delay. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be
uninformed, brothers and sisters,
about those who have died, so that
you may not grieve as others do who
have no hope. For since we believe
that Jesus died and rose again, even
so, through Jesus, God will bring with
him those who have died. For this
we declare to you by the word of the
Lord, that we who are alive, who are
left until the coming of the Lord, will
by no means precede those who have
died. For the Lord himself, with a cry
of command, with the archangel's call
and with the sound of God's trumpet,
will descend from heaven, and the
dead in Christ will rise first. Then we
who are alive, who are left, will be
caught up in the clouds together with

them to meet the Lord in the air; and
so we will be with the Lord for ever.
Therefore encourage one another
with these words.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus spoke this parable to the
disciples: "The kingdom of heaven
will be like this. Ten bridesmaids
took their lamps and went to meet
the bridegroom. Five of them were
foolish, and five were wise. When the
foolish took their lamps, they took
no oil with them; but the wise took
flasks of oil with their lamps. As the
bridegroom was delayed, all of them
became drowsy and slept. But at
midnight there was a shout, 'Look!
Here is the bridegroom! Come out to
meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids
got up and trimmed their lamps. The
foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some
of your oil, for our lamps are going
out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there
will not be enough for you and for us;
you had better go to the dealers and
buy some for yourselves.' And while
they went to buy it, the bridegroom
came, and those who were ready
went with him into the wedding
banquet; and the door was shut. Later
the other bridesmaids came also,
saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But
he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not
know you.' Keep awake therefore,
for you know neither the day nor the
hour."

POST COMMUNION

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed
the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness
of life:
look with compassion on the anguish
of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ.



Come to me quick-ly, O God.

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy
the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God and
heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he is pure;
that when he shall appear in power and
great glory
we may be made like him
in his eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7. 12-18

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

PSALM Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 (or 90:1-8)

R *O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.*

Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the earth and the world were formed,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God. **R**

You turn us back to dust and say:
"Turn back, O children of earth."
For a thousand years in your sight are
but as yesterday,
which passes like a watch in the night. **R**



You sweep them away like a dream;
they fade away suddenly like the grass.
In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and
withered. **R**

For we consume away in your displeasure;
we are afraid at your wrathful indignation.
You have set our misdeeds before you
and our secret sins in the light of your
countenance. **R**

[When you are angry, all our days are gone;
our years come to an end like a sigh.
The days of our life are three score years
and ten,
or if our strength endures, even four score;
yet the sum of them is but labour and
sorrow,
for they soon pass away and we are gone. **R**

Who regards the power of your wrath
and your indignation like those who fear
you?
So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

Concerning the times and the seasons,
brothers and sisters, you do not need
to have anything written to you. For you
yourselves know very well that the day
of the Lord will come like a thief in the
night. When they say, "There is peace and
security," then sudden destruction will
come upon them, as labour pains come
upon a pregnant woman, and there will
be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in
darkness, for that day to surprise you like
a thief; for you are all children of light and
children of the day; we are not of the night
or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep
as others do, but let us keep awake and be
sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night,
and those who are drunk get drunk at
night. But since we belong to the day, let
us be sober, and put on the breastplate of
faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of
salvation. For God has destined us not for
wrath but for obtaining salvation through
our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so
that whether we are awake or asleep we
may live with him. Therefore encourage one
another and build up each other, as indeed
you are doing.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "The kingdom of
heaven is as if a man, going on a journey,
summoned his slaves and entrusted his
property to them; to one he gave five
talents, to another two, to another one,

to each according to his ability. Then he
went away. The one who had received the
five talents went off at once and traded
with them, and made five more talents. In
the same way, the one who had the two
talents made two more talents. But the
one who had received the one talent went
off and dug a hole in the ground and hid
his master's money. After a long time the
master of those slaves came and settled
accounts with them. Then the one who had
received the five talents came forward,
bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master,
you handed over to me five talents; see,
I have made five more talents.' His
master said to him, 'Well done, good
and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in
charge of many things; enter into the joy
of your master.' And the one with the two
talents also came forward, saying, 'Master,
you handed over to me two talents; see,
I have made two more talents.' His
master said to him, 'Well done, good
and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things, I will put you
in charge of many things; enter into the
joy of your master.' Then the one who had
received the one talent also came forward,
saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a
harsh man, reaping where you did not sow,
and gathering where you did not scatter
seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid
your talent in the ground. Here you have
what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You
wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you,
that I reap where I did not sow, and gather
where I did not scatter? Then you ought to
have invested my money with the bankers,
and on my return I would have received
what was my own with interest. So take
the talent from him, and give it to the one
with the ten talents. For to all those who
have, more will be given, and they will have
an abundance; but from those who have
nothing, even what they have will be taken
away. As for this worthless slave, throw him
into the outer darkness, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

POST COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the
throne of heaven that he might rule
over all things as Lord and King:
keep the Church in the unity of the
Spirit
and in the bond of peace,
and bring the whole created order to
worship at his feet;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34:11-16. 20-24

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep, and will seek them out. As shepherds seek out their flocks when they are among their scattered sheep, so I will seek out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land; and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you pushed with flank and shoulder, and butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and wide, I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged; and I will judge between sheep and sheep. I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I, the LORD, have spoken.

PSALM Psalm 95:1-7

R *Come, let us worship and bow down.*

O come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us heartily rejoice in the rock of our
salvation.

Let us come into his presence with
thanksgiving
and be glad in him with psalms.
For the Lord is a great God
and a great king above all gods. **R**

In his hand are the depths of the earth
and the heights of the mountains are
his also.

The sea is his, for he made it,
and his hands have moulded the dry
land. **R**

Come, let us worship and bow down
and kneel before the Lord our Maker.
For he is our God;
we are the people of his pasture and
the sheep of his hand. **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:15-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-end

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all

the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?' Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,
the wills of your faithful people;
that they, plenteously bringing forth the
fruit of good works,
may by you be plenteously rewarded;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Come, let us wor-ship and bow down.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works of
darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his glorious
majesty to judge the living and the
dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 64:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence – as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil – to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O LORD, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD, and do not remember iniquity

for ever. Now consider, we are all your people.

PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20 (or 80:1-8)

R Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned
upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and
Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation. **R**

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your
people's prayer?
You feed them with the bread of tears;
you give them abundance of tears to
drink.

You have made us the derision of our
neighbours
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man at your
right hand,
the son of man you made so strong for
yourself.
And so will we not go back from you;
give us life, and we shall call upon your
name. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:3-9

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

My brothers and sisters: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind – just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you – so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus

Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

GOSPEL Mark 13:24-37

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of your Son our
Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

