

COLLECT

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your
Church:
by the Spirit's gift equip us to live the
gospel of Christ and make us eager to
do your will,
that we may share with the whole
creation the joys of eternal life;
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 **Isaiah 45:1-7**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to
Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him and strip
kings of their robes, to open doors
before him – and the gates shall not be
closed: I will go before you and level
the mountains, I will break in pieces the
doors of bronze and cut through the
bars of iron, I will give you the treasures
of darkness and riches hidden in secret
places, so that you may know that it is
I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call
you by your name. For the sake of my
servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I
call you by your name, I surname you,
though you do not know me. I am the
LORD, and there is no other; besides
me there is no god. I arm you, though
you do not know me, so that they may
know, from the rising of the sun and
from the west, that there is no one
besides me; I am the LORD, and there
is no other. I form light and create
darkness, I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things

Or **Exodus 33:12-end**

PSALM Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

R *Ascribe to the Lord honour and
power.*

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples. **R**
For great is the Lord and greatly to be
praised;

he is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they
are but idols;
but it is the Lord who made the
heavens.
O the majesty and magnificence of his
presence!
O the power and the splendour of his
sanctuary! **R**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the
peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.
Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to
his name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of
holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him. **R**

[Tell it out among the nations: "The
Lord is king!
he has made the world so firm that it
cannot be moved
he will judge the peoples with equity."
Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth
be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is
therein. **R**

Then shall all the trees of the wood
shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with
righteousness
and the peoples with his truth. **R]**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To
the church of the Thessalonians in God
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace. We always
give thanks to God for all of you and
mention you in our prayers, constantly
remembering before our God and
Father your work of faith and labour
of love and steadfastness of hope in
our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know,
brothers and sisters beloved by God,
that he has chosen you, because our
message of the gospel came to you not
in word only, but also in power and in
the Holy Spirit and with full conviction;
just as you know what kind of persons
we proved to be among you for your
sake. And you became imitators of

us and of the Lord, for in spite of
persecution you received the word
with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so
that you became an example to all the
believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
For the word of the Lord has sounded
forth from you not only in Macedonia
and Achaia, but in every place your faith
in God has become known, so that we
have no need to speak about it. For the
people of those regions report about us
what kind of welcome we had among
you, and how you turned to God from
idols, to serve a living and true God,
and to wait for his Son from heaven,
whom he raised from the dead – Jesus,
who rescues us from the wrath that is
coming.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22

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

When the chief priests and Pharisees
had heard the parables, they realised
that Jesus was speaking about them.
Then the Pharisees went and plotted to
entrap him in what he said. So they sent
their disciples to him, along with the
Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know
that you are sincere, and teach the way
of God in accordance with truth, and
show deference to no one; for you do
not regard people with partiality. Tell
us, then, what you think. Is it lawful
to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"
But Jesus, aware of their malice, said,
"Why are you putting me to the test,
you hypocrites? Show me the coin
used for the tax." And they brought
him a denarius. Then he said to them,
"Whose head is this, and whose title?"
They answered, "The emperor's." Then
he said to them, "Give therefore to
the emperor the things that are the
emperor's, and to God the things that
are God's." When they heard this, they
were amazed; and they left him and
went away.

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son, the light unfailing,
has come from heaven to deliver the
world from the darkness of ignorance:
let these holy mysteries open the eyes
of our understanding
that we may know the way of life,
and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.