

## COLLECT

O God,  
the strength of all those who put their  
trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our  
mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
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 Isaiah 65:1-9

*A reading from the book of the prophet  
Isaiah.*

The word of the Lord through the  
prophet: I was ready to be sought out by  
those who did not ask, to be found by  
those who did not seek me. I said, "Here  
I am, here I am," to a nation that did not  
call on my name. I held out my hands  
all day long to a rebellious people, who  
walk in a way that is not good, following  
their own devices; a people who provoke  
me to my face continually, sacrificing in  
gardens and offering incense on bricks;  
who sit inside tombs, and spend the night  
in secret places; who eat swine's flesh,  
with broth of abominable things in their  
vessels; who say, "Keep to yourself, do  
not come near me, for I am too holy for  
you." These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
a fire that burns all day long. See, it is  
written before me: I will not keep silent,  
but I will repay; I will indeed repay  
into their laps their iniquities and their  
ancestors' iniquities together, says the  
LORD; because they offered incense on  
the mountains and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps full payment  
for their actions. Thus says the LORD:  
As the wine is found in the cluster, and  
they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a  
blessing in it," so I will do for my servants'  
sake, and not destroy them all. I will bring  
forth descendants from Jacob, and from  
Judah inheritors of my mountains; my  
chosen shall inherit it, and my servants  
shall settle there.

Or **1 Kings 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15a**

## PSALM Psalm 22:18-27

**R** *All the ends of the earth shall bow  
before him.*

Be not far away, O, Lord;  
You are my strength; hasten to help me.

Save me from the sword,  
my life from the power of the dog.  
Save me from the lion's mouth,  
my wretched body from the horns of wild  
bulls. **R**

I will declare your name to my people;  
in the midst of the congregation I will  
praise you.  
Praise the Lord, you that fear him;  
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;  
all you of Jacob's line, give glory. **R**

For he does not despise nor abhor  
the poor in their poverty;  
neither does he hide his face from them;  
but when they cry to him he hears them.  
My praise is of him in the great assembly;  
I will perform my vows  
in the presence of those who worship  
him. **R**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise  
him:

"May your heart live for ever!"  
All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord;  
he rules over the nations. **R**

## SECOND READING Galatians 3:23-end

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
Galatians.*

Before faith came, we were imprisoned  
and guarded under the law until faith  
would be revealed. Therefore the law  
was our disciplinarian until Christ came,  
so that we might be justified by faith. But  
now that faith has come, we are no longer  
subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ  
Jesus you are all children of God through  
faith. As many of you as were baptised  
into Christ have clothed yourselves with  
Christ; there is no longer Jew or Greek,  
there is no longer slave or free, there is no  
longer male and female; for all of you are  
one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to  
Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring,  
heirs according to the promise.

## GOSPEL Luke 8:26-39

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

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the  
country of the Gerasenes, which is  
opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on  
land, a man of the city who had demons  
met him. For a long time he had worn no  
clothes, and he did not live in a house but  
in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell

down before him and shouted at the top  
of his voice, "What have you to do with  
me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I  
beg you, do not torment me" – for Jesus  
had commanded the unclean spirit to  
come out of the man. (For many times it  
had seized him; he was kept under guard  
and bound with chains and shackles, but  
he would break the bonds and be driven  
by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then  
asked him, "What is your name?" He said,  
"Legion"; for many demons had entered  
him. They begged him not to order them  
to go back into the abyss. Now there  
on the hillside a large herd of swine was  
feeding; and the demons begged Jesus  
to let them enter these. So he gave them  
permission. Then the demons came out  
of the man and entered the swine, and  
the herd rushed down the steep bank  
into the lake and was drowned. When  
the swineherds saw what had happened,  
they ran off and told it in the city and in  
the country. Then people came out to see  
what had happened, and when they came  
to Jesus, they found the man from whom  
the demons had gone sitting at the feet  
of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind.  
And they were afraid. Those who had seen  
it told them how the one who had been  
possessed by demons had been healed.  
Then all the people of the surrounding  
country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus  
to leave them; for they were seized  
with great fear. So he got into the boat  
and returned. The man from whom the  
demons had gone begged that he might  
be with him; but Jesus sent him away,  
saying, "Return to your home, and declare  
how much God has done for you." So he  
went away, proclaiming throughout the  
city how much Jesus had done for him.

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal Father,  
we thank you for nourishing us  
with these heavenly gifts:  
may our communion strengthen us in faith,  
build us up in hope,  
and make us grow in love;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.