

COLLECT

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our
understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above
all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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 Wisdom of Solomon 12:13. 16-19
A reading from the book of Wisdom.

There is not any god besides you, Lord,
whose care is for all people, to whom you
should prove that you have not judged
unjustly; for your strength is the source
of righteousness, and your sovereignty
over all causes you to spare all. For you
show your strength when people doubt
the completeness of your power, and you
rebuken any insolence among those who
know it. Although you are sovereign in
strength, you judge with mildness, and
with great forbearance you govern us;
for you have power to act whenever you
choose. Through such works you have
taught your people that the righteous
must be kind, and you have filled your
children with good hope, because you
give repentance for sins.

Or Isaiah 44:6-8

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

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and
his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the
first and I am the last; besides me there is
no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim
it, let them declare and set it forth before
me. Who has announced from of old the
things to come? Let them tell us what is
yet to be. Do not fear, or be afraid; have
I not told you from of old and declared
it? You are my witnesses! Is there any god
besides me? There is no other rock; I know
not one.

PSALM Psalm 86:11-end

R *All nations you have made shall
come and worship you, O Lord.*

Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will
walk in your truth;
knit my heart to you, that I may fear your
name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all
my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore; **R**

For great is your steadfast love towards
me,

for you have delivered my soul from the
depths of the grave.

O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;
they have not set you before their eyes. **R**

But you, Lord, are gracious and full of
compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and
truth.

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant

and save the child of your handmaid.

Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and
be ashamed;

because you, O Lord, have helped and
comforted me. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

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

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors,
not to the flesh, to live according to the
flesh – for if you live according to the
flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you
put to death the deeds of the body, you
will live. For all who are led by the Spirit
of God are children of God. For you did
not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back
into fear, but you have received a spirit of
adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with
our spirit that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact,
we suffer with him so that we may also
be glorified with him. I consider that the
sufferings of this present time are not
worth comparing with the glory about to
be revealed to us. For the creation waits
with eager longing for the revealing of
the children of God; for the creation was
subjected to futility, not of its own will
but by the will of the one who subjected
it, in hope that the creation itself will be
set free from its bondage to decay and
will obtain the freedom of the glory of the
children of God. We know that the whole
creation has been groaning in labour
pains until now; and not only the creation,
but we ourselves, who have the first fruits
of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we
wait for adoption, the redemption of our
bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now

hope that is seen is not hope. For who
hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for
what we do not see, we wait for it with
patience.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43

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

Jesus put before the crowd another
parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to someone who sowed good
seed in his field; but while everybody
was asleep, an enemy came and sowed
weeds among the wheat, and then went
away. So when the plants came up and
bore grain then the weeds appeared as
well. And the slaves of the householder
came and said to him, ‘Master, did you
not sow good seed in your field? Where,
then, did these weeds come from?’ He
answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The
slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us
to go and gather them?’ But he replied,
‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would
uproot the wheat along with them. Let
both of them grow together until the
harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the
reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind
them in bundles to be burned, but gather
the wheat into my barn.’” Then Jesus
left the crowds and went into the house.
And his disciples approached him, saying,
“Explain to us the parable of the weeds
of the field.” He answered, “The one
who sows the good seed is the Son of
Man; the field is the world, and the good
seed are the children of the kingdom; the
weeds are the children of the evil one and
the enemy who sowed them is the devil;
the harvest is the end of the age, and
the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds
are collected and burned up with fire, so
will it be at the end of the age. The Son
of Man will send his angels, and they will
collect out of his kingdom all causes of sin
and all evildoers, and they will throw them
into the furnace of fire, where there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then
the righteous will shine like the sun in the
kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with
ears listen!”

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

