

COLLECT

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your
name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the
same;
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

Ecclesiastes 1:2. 12-14; 2:18-23

A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me – and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

Or **Hosea 11:1-11**

PSALM Psalm 49:1-12 [or 49:1-9] 

R *Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.*

Hear this, all you peoples;
listen, all you that dwell in the world,
You of low or high degree,
both rich and poor together. **R**



My mouth shall speak of wisdom
and my heart shall meditate on
understanding.
I will incline my ear to a parable;
I will unfold my riddle with the lyre. **R**

Why should I fear in evil days,
when the malice of my foes surrounds
me,
Such as trust in their goods
and glory in the abundance of their
riches?

For no one can indeed ransom another
or pay to God the price of deliverance. **R**

To ransom a soul is too costly;
there is no price one could pay for it,
So that they might live for ever,
and never see the grave.
For we see that the wise die also;
with the foolish and ignorant they
perish
and leave their riches to others. **R**

Their tomb is their home for ever,
their dwelling through all generations,
though they call their lands after their
own names.
Those who have honour, but lack
understanding,
are like the beasts that perish. **R**

SECOND READING Colossians 3:1-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory. Put to death, therefore, whatever in you is earthly: fornication, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed (which is idolatry). On account of these the wrath of God is coming on those who are disobedient. These are the ways you also once followed, when you were living that life. But now you must get rid of all such things – anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have stripped off the old self with its practices and have

clothed yourselves with the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge according to the image of its creator. In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!

GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

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

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to the crowd, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry."'" But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich towards God."

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine
and the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may
live:
may we so receive within ourselves the
power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his
glory and be made perfect in his
love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and
govern both our hearts and
bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works of
your commandments;
that through your most mighty
protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the LORD came to Abram
in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I
am your shield; your reward shall be very
great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD,
what will you give me, for I continue
childless, and the heir of my house is
Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said,
"You have given me no offspring, and
so a slave born in my house is to be my
heir." But the word of the LORD came
to him, "This man shall not be your heir;
no one but your very own issue shall be
your heir." The Lord brought Abraham
outside and said, "Look toward heaven
and count the stars, if you are able
to count them." Then he said to him,
"So shall your descendants be." And
he believed the LORD; and the LORD
reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Or Isaiah 1:1. 10-20

PSALM Psalm 33:12-end [or 33:12-21]

R *The earth is full of the loving-kindness
of the Lord.*

Happy the nation whose God is the Lord
and the people he has chosen for his
own.

The Lord looks down from heaven
and beholds all the children of earth. **R**

From where he sits enthroned he turns
his gaze
on all who dwell on the earth.
He fashions all the hearts of them
and understands all their works. **R**

No king is saved by the might of his
host;

no warrior delivered by his great
strength.

A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
for all its strength it cannot save. **R**

Behold, the eye of the Lord
is upon those who fear him,
on those who wait in hope for his
steadfast love,
To deliver their soul from death
and to feed them in time of famine. **R**

Our soul waits longingly for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
Indeed, our heart rejoices in him;
in his holy name have we put our trust.
Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be
upon us,
as we have set our hope on you. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3. 8-16

*A reading from the letter to the
Hebrews.*

Faith is the assurance of things hoped
for, the conviction of things not seen.
Indeed, by faith our ancestors received
approval. By faith we understand that
the worlds were prepared by the word
of God, so that what is seen was made
from things that are not visible. By faith
Abraham obeyed when he was called to
set out for a place that he was to receive
as an inheritance; and he set out, not
knowing where he was going. By faith he
stayed for a time in the land he had been
promised, as in a foreign land, living in
tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were
heirs with him of the same promise. For
he looked forward to the city that has
foundations, whose architect and builder
is God. By faith he received power of
procreation, even though he was too
old – and Sarah herself was barren –
because he considered him faithful
who had promised. Therefore from one
person, and this one as good as dead,
descendants were born, "as many as the
stars of heaven and as the innumerable
grains of sand by the seashore." All
of these died in faith without having
received the promises, but from a
distance they saw and greeted them.
They confessed that they were strangers
and foreigners on the earth, for people
who speak in this way make it clear
that they are seeking a homeland. If
they had been thinking of the land that

they had left behind, they would have
had opportunity to return. But as it is,
they desire a better country, that is,
a heavenly one. Therefore God is not
ashamed to be called their God; indeed,
he has prepared a city for them.

GOSPEL Luke 12:32-40

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be
afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's
good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Sell your possessions, and give alms.
Make purses for yourselves that do not
wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth
destroys. For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also. Be dressed
for action and have your lamps lit; be like
those who are waiting for their master
to return from the wedding banquet, so
that they may open the door for him as
soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed
are those slaves whom the master finds
alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he
will fasten his belt and have them sit
down to eat, and he will come and serve
them. If he comes during the middle of
the night, or near dawn, and finds them
so, blessed are those slaves. But know
this: if the owner of the house had known
at what hour the thief was coming, he
would not have let his house be broken
into. You also must be ready, for the
Son of Man is coming at an unexpected
hour."

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your
word be deaf to clamour and
dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens
of your love shine with the
light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed
with your body be refreshed
with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.



COLLECT

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your
grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the
Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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

Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Am I a God near by, says the LORD,
and not a God far off? Who can hide
in secret places so that I cannot see
them? says the LORD. Do I not fill
heaven and earth? says the LORD. I
have heard what the prophets have
said who prophesy lies in my name,
saying, "I have dreamed, I have
dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts
of the prophets ever turn back – those
who prophesy lies, and who prophesy
the deceit of their own heart? They
plan to make my people forget my
name by their dreams that they tell one
another, just as their ancestors forgot
my name for Baal. Let the prophet who
has a dream tell the dream, but let the
one who has my word speak my word
faithfully. What has straw in common
with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my
word like fire, says the LORD, and like
a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Or **Isaiah 5:1-7**

PSALM Psalm 82

R Arise, O God, and judge the earth.

God has taken his stand in the council of
heaven;
in the midst of the gods he gives
judgement:
"How long will you judge unjustly
and show such favour to the wicked? **R**
"You were to judge the weak and the
orphan;
defend the right of the humble and
needy;
"Rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the hand of the
wicked. **R**

"They have no knowledge or wisdom;
they walk on still in darkness:
all the foundations of the earth are
shaken.

"Therefore I say that though you are
gods
and all of you children of the Most
High, **R**

"Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like one of their princes."
Arise, O God and judge the earth,
for it is you that shall take all nations for
your possession. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

By faith the people of Israel passed
through the Red Sea as if it were
dry land, but when the Egyptians
attempted to do so they were
drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho
fell after they had been encircled
for seven days. By faith Rahab the
prostitute did not perish with those
who were disobedient, because she
had received the spies in peace.
And what more should I say? For
time would fail me to tell of Gideon,
Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David
and Samuel and the prophets – who
through faith conquered kingdoms,
administered justice, obtained
promises, shut the mouths of lions,
quenched raging fire, escaped the
edge of the sword, won strength out
of weakness, became mighty in war,
put foreign armies to flight. Women
received their dead by resurrection.
Others were tortured, refusing to
accept release, in order to obtain a
better resurrection. Others suffered
mocking and flogging, and even
chains and imprisonment. They were
stoned to death, they were sawn in
two, they were killed by the sword;
they went about in skins of sheep
and goats, destitute, persecuted,
tormented – of whom the world was
not worthy. They wandered in deserts
and mountains, and in caves and holes
in the ground. Yet all these, though
they were commended for their faith,
did not receive what was promised,
since God had provided something
better so that they would not, apart
from us, be made perfect. Therefore,

since we are surrounded by so great
a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay
aside every weight and the sin that
clings so closely, and let us run with
perseverance the race that is set before
us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and
perfector of our faith, who for the sake
of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, disregarding its
shame, and has taken his seat at the
right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "I came to
bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it
were already kindled! I have a baptism
with which to be baptised, and what
stress I am under until it is completed!
Do you think that I have come to bring
peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but
rather division! From now on five in
one household will be divided, three
against two and two against three;
they will be divided: father against son
and son against father, mother against
daughter and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-
in-law and daughter-in-law against
mother-in-law." He also said to the
crowds, "When you see a cloud rising
in the west, you immediately say, 'It is
going to rain'; and so it happens. And
when you see the south wind blowing,
you say, 'There will be scorching heat';
and it happens. You hypocrites! You
know how to interpret the appearance
of earth and sky, but why do you not
know how to interpret the present
time?"

POST COMMUNION

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table
of your Son
to share this meal with the whole
household of God:
in that new world where you reveal the
fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and
language to share in the eternal
banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.



A - rise, O God, and judge the earth.