

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 Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM Psalm 46

R *The Lord of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble;

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved,
and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea; **R**

Though the waters rage and swell,
and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High. **R**

God is in the midst of her;
therefore shall she not be removed;
God shall help her at the break of day.
The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken,
but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away. **R**

Come and behold the works of the Lord,
what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the world;
he shatters the bow and snaps the spear
and burns the chariots in the fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations;
I will be exalted in the earth." **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters: May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers – all things have been created

through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43

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

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

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.

