

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose will is to restore all things
in your beloved Son, the king of all:
govern the hearts and minds of those
in authority,
and bring the families of the nations,
divided and torn apart by the ravages
of sin,
to be subject to his just and gentle
rule;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Job 19:23-27a

A reading from the book of Job.

Job said to his companions: "O that
my words were written down! O that
they were inscribed in a book! O that
with an iron pen and with lead they
were engraved on a rock for ever! For
I know that my Redeemer lives, and
that at the last he will stand upon the
earth; and after my skin has been thus
destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see
God, whom I shall see on my side,
and my eyes shall behold, and not
another. My heart faints with me!"

PSALM Psalm 17:1-9 [or 1-8]

R *Deliver me, O Lord, by your hand.*

Hear my just cause, O Lord; consider
my complaint;
listen to my prayer, which comes not
from lying lips.
Let my vindication come forth from
your presence;
let your eyes behold what is right. **R**

Weigh my heart, examine me by
night,
refine me, and you will find no
impurity in me.
My mouth does not trespass for
earthly rewards;
I have heeded the words of your lips.
My footsteps hold fast in the ways of
your commandments;
my feet have not stumbled in your
paths. **R**

I call upon you, O God, for you will
answer me;
incline your ear to me, and listen to
my words.



Show me your marvellous loving-
kindness,
O Saviour of those who take refuge at
your right hand from those who rise
up against them. **R**

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me under the shadow of your
wings,
From the wicked who assault me,
from my enemies who surround me to
take away my life. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5. 13-end

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

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus
Christ and our being gathered
together to him, we beg you, brothers
and sisters, not to be quickly shaken
in mind or alarmed, either by spirit
or by word or by letter, as though
from us, to the effect that the day
of the Lord is already here. Let no
one deceive you in any way; for
that day will not come unless the
rebellion comes first and the lawless
one is revealed, the one destined
for destruction. He opposes and
exalts himself above every so-called
god or object of worship, so that he
takes his seat in the temple of God,
declaring himself to be God. Do you
not remember that I told you these
things when I was still with you? But
we must always give thanks to God
for you, brothers and sisters beloved
by the Lord, because God chose you
as the first fruits for salvation through
sanctification by the Spirit and
through belief in the truth. For this
purpose he called you through our
proclamation of the good news, so
that you may obtain the glory of our
Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers
and sisters, stand firm and hold fast
to the traditions that you were taught
by us, either by word of mouth or by
our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus
Christ himself and God our Father,
who loved us and through grace gave
us eternal comfort and good hope,
comfort your hearts and strengthen
them in every good work and word.

GOSPEL Luke 20:27-38

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

Some Sadducees, those who say
there is no resurrection, came to
Jesus, and asked him a question,
"Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if
a man's brother dies, leaving a wife
but no children, the man shall marry
the widow and raise up children for
his brother. Now there were seven
brothers; the first married, and died
childless; then the second and the
third married her, and so in the
same way all seven died childless.
Finally the woman also died. In the
resurrection, therefore, whose wife
will the woman be? For the seven
had married her." Jesus said to them,
"Those who belong to this age marry
and are given in marriage; but those
who are considered worthy of a place
in that age and in the resurrection
from the dead neither marry nor are
given in marriage. Indeed they cannot
die any more, because they are like
angels and are children of God, being
children of the resurrection. And the
fact that the dead are raised Moses
himself showed, in the story about the
bush, where he speaks of the Lord
as the God of Abraham, the God of
Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now
he is God not of the dead, but of the
living; for to him all of them are alive."

POST COMMUNION

God of peace,
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed
the kingdom
and restored the broken to wholeness
of life:
look with compassion on the anguish
of the world,
and by your healing power
make whole both people and nations;
through our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ.