

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who caused the light of the gospel
to shine throughout the world
through the preaching of your servant Saint
Paul:
grant that we who celebrate his wonderful
conversion
may follow him in bearing witness to your
truth;
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 Jeremiah 1:4-10

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The word of the LORD came to me saying, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy." But the LORD said to me, "Do not say, 'I am only a boy'; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD." Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the LORD said to me, "Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant."

Or Acts 9:1-22

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
Saul, still breathing threats and murder
against the disciples of the Lord, went to
the high priest and asked him for letters to
the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he
found any who belonged to the Way, men
or women, he might bring them bound

to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" He asked, "Who are you, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do." The men who were travelling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank. Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, "Ananias." He answered, "Here I am, Lord." The Lord said to him, "Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight." But Ananias answered, "Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name." But the Lord said to him, "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name." So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptised, and after taking some food, he

regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, "He is the Son of God." All who heard him were amazed and said, "Is not this the man who made havoc in Jerusalem among those who invoked this name? And has he not come here for the purpose of bringing them bound before the chief priests?" Saul became increasingly more powerful and confounded the Jews who lived in Damascus by proving that Jesus was the Messiah.

PSALM Psalm 67

R Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

May God be merciful to us and bless us,
show us the light of his countenance and
come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth,
your saving health among all nations. **R**

[Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.]

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth. **R**

[Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.]

The earth has brought forth her increase;
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
May God give us his blessing,
and may all the ends of the earth stand in
awe of him. **R**

SECOND READING Either Acts 9:1-22

Or Galatians 1:11-16a

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters,
that the gospel that was proclaimed by me
is not of human origin; for I did not receive
it from a human source, nor was I taught

it, but I received it through a revelation of
Jesus Christ. You have heard, no doubt, of
my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently
persecuting the church of God and was
trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism
beyond many among my people of the
same age, for I was far more zealous for
the traditions of my ancestors. But when
God, who had set me apart before I was
born and called me through his grace, was
pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I
might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I
did not confer with any human being.

GOSPEL Matthew 19:27-end

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

Peter said to Jesus: "Look, we have left
everything and followed you. What then will
we have?" Jesus said to them, "Truly
I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when
the Son of Man is seated on the throne
of his glory, you who have followed me
will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the
twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who
has left houses or brothers or sisters or
father or mother or children or fields, for my
name's sake, will receive a hundredfold, and
will inherit eternal life. But many who are
first will be last, and the last will be first."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
who on the day of Pentecost
sent your Holy Spirit to the apostles
with the wind from heaven and in tongues
of flame,
filling them with joy and boldness to preach
the gospel:

by the power of the same Spirit
strengthen us to witness to your truth
and to draw everyone to the fire of your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.