

COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus
Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in
heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not
comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our
Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either **Acts 1:6-14**

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Or **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

PSALM Psalm 68:1-10. 32-end

R *Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
[sing praises to the Lord].*

Let God arise and let his enemies be
scattered;
let those who hate him flee before him.
Let them vanish like smoke

when the wind drives it away;
as the wax melts at the fire,
so let the wicked perish at the presence
of God. **R**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice
before God;
let them also be merry and joyful.
Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
exalt him who rides upon the heavens;
Yahweh is his name, rejoice before him! **R**

Father of orphans, defender of widows,
God in his holy habitation!
God gives the solitary a home
and brings forth prisoners into freedom;
but the rebels shall live in dry places. **R**

O God, when you went forth before your
people,
when you marched through the
wilderness,
The earth shook and the skies poured
down rain,
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of
Israel. **R**

You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon
your inheritance;
you refreshed the land when it was
weary.
Your people found their home in it;
in your goodness, O God,
you have made provision for the
poor. **R**

Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth;
sing praises to the Lord.
He rides in the heavens, the ancient
heavens;
he sends forth his voice, his mighty
voice. **R**

Ascribe power to God;
his majesty is over Israel;
his strength is in the skies.
How wonderful is God in his holy places!
the God of Israel giving strength and
power to his people!
Blessèd be God! **R**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery
ordeal that is taking place among you to
test you, as though something strange
were happening to you. But rejoice in so
far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,
so that you may also be glad and shout
for joy when his glory is revealed. If you
are reviled for the name of Christ, you are
blessed, because the spirit of glory, which
is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
Humble yourselves therefore under the
mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt
you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on

him, because he cares for you. Discipline
yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion
your adversary the devil prowls around,
looking for someone to devour. Resist
him, steadfast in your faith, for you know
that your brothers and sisters throughout
the world are undergoing the same kinds
of suffering. And after you have suffered
for a little while, the God of all grace,
who has called you to his eternal glory
in Christ, will himself restore, support,
strengthen, and establish you. To him be
the power for ever and ever. Amen.

Or **Acts 1:6-14**

GOSPEL John 17:1-11

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
"Father, the hour has come; glorify your
Son so that the Son may glorify you,
since you have given him authority over
all people, to give eternal life to all whom
you have given him. And this is eternal
life, that they may know you, the only
true God, and Jesus Christ whom you
have sent. I glorified you on earth by
finishing the work that you gave me to
do. So now, Father, glorify me in your
own presence with the glory that I had in
your presence before the world existed.
I have made your name known to those
whom you gave me from the world. They
were yours, and you gave them to me,
and they have kept your word. Now they
know that everything you have given me
is from you; for the words that you gave
to me I have given to them, and they
have received them and know in truth
that I came from you; and they have
believed that you sent me. I am asking on
their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of
the world, but on behalf of those whom
you gave me, because they are yours. All
mine are yours, and yours are mine; and
I have been glorified in them. And now I
am no longer in the world, but they are in
the world, and I am coming to you. Holy
Father, protect them in your name that
you have given me, so that they may be
one, as we are one."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all
the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we
proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.