

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear witness
that you were in Christ reconciling the
world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news of
your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to
you;
through him who was lifted up on the
cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of the
Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 15:15-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. I did not sit in the company of merry-makers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn

to you, not you who will turn to them. And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

Or Exodus 3:1-15

PSALM Psalm 26:1-8

R *Your love is before my eyes;
[I have walked faithfully with you].*

Give judgement for me, O Lord,
for I have lived with integrity;
I have trusted in the Lord and have not
faltered.

Test me, O Lord, and try me;
examine my heart and my mind. **R**

For your love is before my eyes;
I have walked faithfully with you.
I have not sat with the worthless,
nor do I consort with the deceitful.
I have hated the company of evildoers;
I will not sit down with the wicked. **R**

I will wash my hands in innocence,
O Lord,
that I may go in procession round your
altar,
Singing aloud a song of thanksgiving
and recounting all your wonderful
deeds.
Lord, I love the house in which you
dwell
and the place where your glory
abides. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 12:9-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil,
hold fast to what is good; love one
another with mutual affection; outdo
one another in showing honour. Do
not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit,
serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be
patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.
Contribute to the needs of the saints;
extend hospitality to strangers. Bless
those who persecute you; bless and do
not curse them. Rejoice with those who
rejoice, weep with those who weep.
Live in harmony with one another; do
not be haughty, but associate with
the lowly; do not claim to be wiser
than you are. Do not repay anyone
evil for evil, but take thought for
what is noble in the sight of all. If it is
possible, so far as it depends on you,
live peaceably with all. Beloved, never
avenge yourselves, but leave room
for the wrath of God; for it is written,
"Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says
the Lord." No, "if your enemies are
hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty,
give them something to drink; for by
doing this you will heap burning coals
on their heads." Do not be overcome
by evil, but overcome evil with good.

GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-end

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

From that time on, Jesus began to
show his disciples that he must go to
Jerusalem and undergo great suffering

at the hands of the elders and chief
priests and scribes, and be killed, and
on the third day be raised. And Peter
took him aside and began to rebuke
him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This
must never happen to you." But he
turned and said to Peter, "Get behind
me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block
to me; for you are setting your mind
not on divine things but on human
things." Then Jesus told his disciples,
"If any want to become my followers,
let them deny themselves and take up
their cross and follow me. For those
who want to save their life will lose it,
and those who lose their life for my
sake will find it. For what will it profit
them if they gain the whole world but
forfeit their life? Or what will they give
in return for their life? For the Son of
Man is to come with his angels in the
glory of his Father, and then he will
repay everyone for what has been
done. Truly I tell you, there are some
standing here who will not taste death
before they see the Son of Man coming
in his kingdom."

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true
manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through our
earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place where
hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.