

COLLECT

Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love
you
such good things as pass our
understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward
you
that we, loving you in all things and
above all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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

(Alternative readings)

Either

Wisdom of Solomon 12:13. 16-19

A reading from the book of Wisdom.

There is not any god besides you, Lord,
whose care is for all people, to whom
you should prove that you have not
judged unjustly; for your strength is
the source of righteousness, and your
sovereignty over all causes you to spare
all. For you show your strength when
people doubt the completeness of your
power, and you rebuke any insolence
among those who know it. Although you
are sovereign in strength, you judge with
mildness, and with great forbearance
you govern us; for you have power to
act whenever you choose. Through such
works you have taught your people that
the righteous must be kind, and you
have filled your children with good hope,
because you give repentance for sins.

Or **Isaiah 44:6-8**

*A reading from the book of the prophet
Isaiah.*

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:
I am the first and I am the last; besides
me there is no god. Who is like me? Let
them proclaim it, let them declare and set
it forth before me. Who has announced
from of old the things to come? Let them
tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or
be afraid; have I not told you from of old
and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is
there any god besides me? There is no
other rock; I know not one.

PSALM Psalm 86:11-17

R *You, Lord, are gracious and full of
compassion.*

Teach me your way, O Lord,
and I will walk in your truth;

knit my heart to you that I may fear your
name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all
my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore.
For great is your love towards me;
you have delivered me from the
nethermost Pit. **R**

The arrogant rise up against me, O God,
and a violent band seeks my life;
they have not set you before their eyes.
But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of
compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and
truth. **R**

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant;
and save the child of your handmaid.
Show me a sign of your favour,
so that those who hate me may see it
and be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped me
and comforted me. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:12-25

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Romans.*

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not
to the flesh, to live according to the flesh
– for if you live according to the flesh,
you will die; but if by the Spirit you put
to death the deeds of the body, you will
live. For all who are led by the Spirit of
God are children of God. For you did not
receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into
fear, but you have received a spirit of
adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with
our spirit that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact,
we suffer with him so that we may also
be glorified with him. I consider that the
sufferings of this present time are not
worth comparing with the glory about to
be revealed to us. For the creation waits
with eager longing for the revealing of
the children of God; for the creation was
subjected to futility, not of its own will
but by the will of the one who subjected
it, in hope that the creation itself will
be set free from its bondage to decay
and will obtain the freedom of the glory
of the children of God. We know that
the whole creation has been groaning
in labour pains until now; and not only
the creation, but we ourselves, who
have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan
inwardly while we wait for adoption, the
redemption of our bodies. For in hope

we were saved. Now hope that is seen
is not hope. For who hopes for what is
seen? But if we hope for what we do not
see, we wait for it with patience.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43

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

Jesus put before the crowd another
parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to someone who sowed good
seed in his field; but while everybody
was asleep, an enemy came and sowed
weeds among the wheat, and then went
away. So when the plants came up and
bore grain then the weeds appeared as
well. And the slaves of the householder
came and said to him, ‘Master, did you
not sow good seed in your field? Where,
then, did these weeds come from?’ He
answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The
slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us
to go and gather them?’ But he replied,
‘No; for in gathering the weeds you
would uproot the wheat along with them.
Let both of them grow together until
the harvest; and at harvest time I will tell
the reapers, Collect the weeds first and
bind them in bundles to be burned, but
gather the wheat into my barn.’” Then
Jesus left the crowds and went into the
house. And his disciples approached
him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of
the weeds of the field.” He answered,
“The one who sows the good seed is
the Son of Man; the field is the world,
and the good seed are the children of
the kingdom; the weeds are the children
of the evil one and the enemy who
sowed them is the devil; the harvest is
the end of the age, and the reapers are
angels. Just as the weeds are collected
and burned up with fire, so will it be at
the end of the age. The Son of Man will
send his angels, and they will collect out
of his kingdom all causes of sin and all
evildoers, and they will throw them into
the furnace of fire, where there will be
weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then the
righteous will shine like the sun in the
kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with
ears listen!”

POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.