

COLLECT

Lord of all power and might,
the author and giver of all good things:
graft in our hearts the love of your name,
increase in us true religion,
nourish us with all goodness,
and of your great mercy keep us in the
same;
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 **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.

Or **Genesis 28:10-19a**

PSALM Psalm 86:11-end

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

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and
the source of life,
ever giving himself that the world may
live:

may we so receive within ourselves the
power of his death and passion
that, in his saving cup, we may share his
glory and be made perfect in his love;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.