

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 Genesis 18:20-32

A reading from the book of Genesis.
The LORD appeared to Abraham by the
oaks of Mamre and said, "How great is
the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah
and how very grave their sin! I must go
down and see whether they have done
altogether according to the outcry that
has come to me; and if not, I will know."
So the men turned from there, and
went towards Sodom, while Abraham
remained standing before the LORD.
Then Abraham came near and said, "Will
you indeed sweep away the righteous
with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty
righteous within the city; will you then
sweep away the place and not forgive it
for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far
be it from you to do such a thing, to slay
the righteous with the wicked, so that the
righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that
from you! Shall not the Judge of all the
earth do what is just?" And the LORD
said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous
in the city, I will forgive the whole place
for their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me
take it upon myself to speak to the Lord,
I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose
five of the fifty righteous are lacking?
Will you destroy the whole city for lack of
five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it
if I find forty five there." Again Abraham
spoke to the LORD, "Suppose forty are
found there." He answered, "For the sake
of forty I will not do it." Then Abraham
said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if
I speak. Suppose thirty are found there."
The LORD answered, "I will not do it, if I
find thirty there." Abraham said, "Let me
take it upon myself to speak to the Lord.
Suppose twenty are found there." The
LORD answered, "For the sake of twenty
I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh
do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just
once more. Suppose ten are found there."
The LORD answered, "For the sake of ten
I will not destroy it."

Or **Hosea 1:2-10**

PSALM Psalm 138

R When I called, you answered me,
O Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my
whole heart;
before the gods I will sing your praise.
I will bow down towards your holy temple
and praise your name,
because of your love and faithfulness;
For you have glorified your name
and your word above all things. **R**

When I called, you answered me;
you increased my strength within me.
All the kings of the earth will praise you,
O Lord,
when they have heard the words of your
mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,
that great is the glory of the Lord.
Though the Lord be high, he cares for the
lowly;
he perceives the haughty from afar. **R**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,
you keep me safe;
you stretch forth your hand
against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.
The Lord will make good his purpose for
me;
O Lord, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands. **R**

SECOND READING

(Short or long reading)

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

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

Brothers and sisters, as you have received
Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your
lives in him, rooted and built up in him
and established in the faith, just as you
were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.
See to it that no one takes you captive
through philosophy and empty deceit,
according to human tradition, according
to the elemental spirits of the universe,
and not according to Christ. For in him
the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,
and you have come to fullness in him, who
is the head of every ruler and authority.
In him also you were circumcised with
a spiritual circumcision, by putting off
the body of the flesh in the circumcision
of Christ; when you were buried with
him in baptism, you were also raised
with him through faith in the power of
God, who raised him from the dead.
And when you were dead in trespasses
and the uncircumcision of your flesh,
God made you alive together with him,
when he forgave us all our trespasses,
erasing the record that stood against
us with its legal demands. He set this

aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed
the rulers and authorities and made a
public example of them, triumphing over
them in it. [Therefore do not let anyone
condemn you in matters of food and drink
or of observing festivals, new moons,
or sabbaths. These are only a shadow
of what is to come, but the substance
belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone
disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement
and worship of angels, dwelling on
visions, puffed up without cause by a
human way of thinking, and not holding
fast to the head, from whom the whole
body, nourished and held together by its
ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth
that is from God.]

GOSPEL Luke 11:1-13

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

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and
after he had finished, one of his disciples
said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray,
as John taught his disciples." He said
to them, "When you pray, say: Father,
hallowed be your name. Your kingdom
come. Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves
forgive everyone indebted to us. And do
not bring us to the time of trial." And he
said to them, "Suppose one of you has a
friend, and you go to him at midnight and
say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves
of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived,
and I have nothing to set before him.' And
he answers from within, 'Do not bother
me; the door has already been locked,
and my children are with me in bed; I
cannot get up and give you anything.' I
tell you, even though he will not get up
and give him anything because he is his
friend, at least because of his persistence
he will get up and give him whatever he
needs. So I say to you, Ask, and it will be
given to you; search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened for
you. For everyone who asks receives,
and everyone who searches finds, and
for everyone who knocks, the door will
be opened. Is there anyone among you
who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a
snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks
for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you
then, who are evil, know how to give good
gifts to your children, how much more will
the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to
those who ask him!"

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.