

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going before
us you put into our minds good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen 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)

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 8:26-end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: "Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth. In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth." The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him

no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Or Baruch 3:9-15. 32 – 4:4
or Genesis 22:1-18

PSALM Psalm 22:25-end

R *Be not far from me, O Lord.*

From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those that fear you.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever. **R**

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall
bow before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations. **R**

How can those who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship,
or those who go down to the dust kneel
before him?

He has saved my life for himself;
my descendants shall serve him;
this shall be told of the Lord for
generations to come.
They shall come and make known his
salvation,
to a people yet unborn,
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **R**

SECOND READING (Alternative readings)

Either 1 John 4:7-end

A reading from the first letter of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God

abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

Or Acts 8:26-end

GOSPEL John 15:1-8

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the
truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.



Be not far from me, O Lord.

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power
of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of
your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has
recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he
may raise us to eternal joy;
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)
*The reading from Acts must be read
as either the First or Second Reading.*

Either Acts 10:44-end

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

While Peter was speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, "Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

Or Isaiah 55:1-11

PSALM Psalm 98

R *The Lord has made known his
salvation.*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
His own right hand and his holy arm
have won for him the victory.
The Lord has made known his
salvation;

his deliverance has he openly shown
in the sight of the nations. **R**

He has remembered his mercy and
faithfulness
towards the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have
seen the salvation of our God.
Sound praises to the Lord, all the
earth;
break into singing and make music. **R**

Make music to the Lord with the lyre,
with the lyre and the voice of
melody.

With trumpets and the sound of the
horn
sound praises before the Lord, the
King. **R**

Let the sea thunder and all that fills it,
the world and all that dwell upon it.
Let the rivers clap their hands
and let the hills ring out together
before the Lord,
for he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the
world
and the peoples with equity. **R**

SECOND READING (Alternative
readings)

Either 1 John 5:1-6

*A reading from the first letter of
John.*

Everyone who believes that Jesus
is the Christ has been born of
God, and everyone who loves the
parent loves the child. By this we
know that we love the children
of God, when we love God and
obey his commandments. For
the love of God is this, that we
obey his commandments. And his
commandments are not burdensome,
for whatever is born of God conquers
the world. And this is the victory that
conquers the world, our faith. Who is
it that conquers the world but the one
who believes that Jesus is the Son of
God? This is the one who came by

water and blood, Jesus Christ, not
with the water only but with the water
and the blood. And the Spirit is the
one that testifies, for the Spirit is the
truth.

Or Acts 10:44-end

GOSPEL John 15:9-17

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "As the
Father has loved me, so I have loved
you; abide in my love. If you keep my
commandments, you will abide in my
love, just as I have kept my Father's
commandments and abide in his love.
I have said these things to you so
that my joy may be in you, and that
your joy may be complete. This is my
commandment, that you love one
another as I have loved you. No one
has greater love than this, to lay down
one's life for one's friends. You are
my friends if you do what I command
you. I do not call you servants any
longer, because the servant does not
know what the master is doing; but
I have called you friends, because I
have made known to you everything
that I have heard from my Father.
You did not choose me but I chose
you. And I appointed you to go and
bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that
the Father will give you whatever you
ask him in my name. I am giving you
these commands so that you may love
one another."

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the
water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of
goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.



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 (Alternative readings)

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 1:15-17. 21-end

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred and twenty people). He said, "Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus – for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry. So one of the men who have accompanied us throughout the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us – one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection." So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias. Then they prayed and said, "Lord, you know everyone's heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place." And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles.

Or Ezekiel 36:24-28

PSALM Psalm 1

R *The Lord knows the way of the righteous.*



Blessed are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the assembly of the scornful. Their delight is in the law of the Lord and they meditate on his law day and night.

Like a tree planted by streams of water bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither, whatever they do, it shall prosper. **R**

As for the wicked, it is not so with them; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand in the judgement, nor the sinner in the congregation of the righteous.

For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall perish. **R**

SECOND READING (Alternative readings)

Either 1 John 5:9-13

A reading from the first letter of John.

If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

Or Acts 1:15-17. 21-end

GOSPEL John 17:6-19

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed: "Father, 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. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

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.



The Lord knows the way of the righteous.

COLLECT

God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit:

grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Saviour, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING (Alternative readings)

The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.

Either Acts 2:1-21

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in their native language. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs – in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine." But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: 'In the last days it will be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon my slaves, both men and women, in those days I will pour out my Spirit; and they shall prophesy. And I will show portents in the heaven above and signs

on the earth below, blood, and fire, and smoky mist. The sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Or Ezekiel 37:1-14

PSALM Psalm 104:26-36. 37b

R *I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.*

O Lord, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. There is the sea, spread far and wide, and there move creatures beyond number, both small and great. **R**

There go the ships, and there is that Leviathan which you have made to play in the deep. All of these look to you to give them their food in due season. **R**

When you give it them, they gather it; you open your hand and they are filled with good.

When you hide your face they are troubled; when you take away their breath, they die and return again to the dust.

When you send forth your spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the earth. **R**

May the glory of the Lord endure for ever; may the Lord rejoice in his works; He looks on the earth and it trembles; he touches the mountains and they smoke. I will sing to the Lord as long as I live; I will make music to my God while I have my being. **R**

So shall my song please him while I rejoice in the Lord. Bless the Lord, O my soul. Alleluia. **R**

Or Psalm 104:26-end

SECOND READING (Alternative readings)

Either Romans 8:22-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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.

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Or Acts 2:1-21

GOSPEL John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples: "When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to testify because you have been with me from the beginning. I have said these things to you so that when their hour comes you may remember that I told you about them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. But now I am going to him who sent me; yet none of you asks me, 'Where are you going?' But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your hearts. Nevertheless I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. And when he comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgement: about sin, because they do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father and you will see me no longer; about judgement, because the ruler of this world has been condemned. I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth; for he will not speak on his own, but will speak whatever he hears, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. He will glorify me, because he will take what is mine and declare it to you. All that the Father has is mine. For this reason I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

POST COMMUNION

Faithful God, who fulfilled the promises of Easter by sending us your Holy Spirit and opening to every race and nation the way of life eternal: open our lips by your Spirit, that every tongue may tell of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord.



COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
 you have given us your servants grace,
 by the confession of a true faith,
 to acknowledge the glory of the eternal
 Trinity
 and in the power of the divine majesty to
 worship the Unity:
 keep us steadfast in this faith,
 that we may evermore be defended from
 all adversities;
 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 Isaiah 6:1-8

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory." The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: "Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!" Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: "Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out." Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I; send me!"

PSALM Psalm 29

R *The Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace.*



Ascribe to the Lord, you powers of heaven,
 ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;
 worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness.

The voice of the Lord is upon the waters;
 the God of glory thunders;
 the Lord is upon the mighty waters. **R**

The voice of the Lord is mighty in operation;
 the voice of the Lord is a glorious voice.
 The voice of the Lord breaks the cedar trees;
 the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon;
 He makes Lebanon skip like a calf
 and Sirion like a young wild ox. **R**

The voice of the Lord splits the flash of lightning;
 the voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
 the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
 The voice of the Lord makes the oak trees writhe
 and strips the forests bare;
 in his temple all cry, "Glory!" **R**

The Lord sits enthroned above the water flood;
 the Lord sits enthroned as king for evermore.
 The Lord shall give strength to his people;
 the Lord shall give his people the blessing of peace. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 8:12-17

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.

GOSPEL John 3:1-17

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come

from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty and eternal God,
 you have revealed yourself as Father, Son
 and Holy Spirit,
 and live and reign in the perfect unity of love:
 hold us firm in this faith,
 that we may know you in all your ways
 and evermore rejoice in your eternal glory,
 who are three Persons yet one God,
 now and for ever.

