

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the
earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all
your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

FIRST READING Proverbs 8:1. 22-31

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Does not wisdom call, and does not
understanding raise her voice? The
LORD created me at the beginning
of his work, the first of his acts of
long ago. Ages ago I was set up,
at the first, before the beginning
of the earth. When there were no
depths I was brought forth, when
there were no springs abounding
with water. Before the mountains had
been shaped, before the hills, I was
brought forth – when he had not yet
made earth and fields, or the world's
first bits of soil. When he established
the heavens, I was there, when he
drew a circle on the face of the deep,
when he made firm the skies above,
when he established the fountains of
the deep, when he assigned to the
sea its limit, so that the waters might
not transgress his command, when
he marked out the foundations of
the earth, then I was beside him, like
a master worker; and I was daily his
delight, rejoicing before him always,
rejoicing in his inhabited world and
delighting in the human race.

PSALM Psalm 104:25-37

R *Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,
and renew the face of the earth.*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!
in wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

Yonder is the great and wide sea
with its living things too many to
number,
creatures both small and great.

There move the ships,
and there is that Leviathan,
which you have made for the sport of
it. **R**

All of them look to you
to give them their food in due season.
You give it to them, they gather it;
you open your hand and they are
filled with good things.
You hide your face and they are
terrified;
you take away their breath
and they die and return to their dust. **R**

You send forth your Spirit and they
are created;
and so you renew the face of the earth.
May the glory of the Lord endure for
ever;
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.
He looks at the earth and it trembles,
he touches the mountains and they
smoke. **R**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;
I will praise my God while I have my
being.
May these words of mine please him;
I will rejoice in the Lord.
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,
and the wicked be no more.
Bless the Lord, O my soul.
Alleluia! **R**

SECOND READING Colossians 1:15-20

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

Christ is the image of the invisible
God, the firstborn of all creation; for
in him all things in heaven and on
earth were created, things visible
and invisible, whether thrones or
dominions or rulers or powers – all
things have been created through
him and for him. He himself is before
all things, and in him all things hold
together. He is the head of the body,
the church; he is the beginning, the
firstborn from the dead, so that he
might come to have first place in
everything. For in him all the fullness
of God was pleased to dwell, and
through him God was pleased

to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven, by
making peace through the blood of
his cross.

GOSPEL John 1:1-14

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

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God, and
the Word was God. He was in the
beginning with God. All things came
into being through him, and without
him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being in him
was life, and the life was the light
of all people. The light shines in the
darkness, and the darkness did not
overcome it. There was a man sent
from God, whose name was John.
He came as a witness to testify to
the light, so that all might believe
through him. He himself was not the
light, but he came to testify to the
light. The true light, which enlightens
everyone, was coming into the world.
He was in the world, and the world
came into being through him; yet the
world did not know him. He came
to what was his own, and his own
people did not accept him. But to all
who received him, who believed in
his name, he gave power to become
children of God, who were born, not
of blood or of the will of the flesh or
of the will of man, but of God. And
the Word became flesh and lived
among us, and we have seen his
glory, the glory as of a father's only
son, full of grace and truth.

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
by your gift
the tree of life was set at the heart of
the earthly paradise,
and the bread of life at the heart of
your Church:
may we who have been nourished at
your table on earth
be transformed by the glory of the
Saviour's cross
and enjoy the delights of eternity;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

COLLECT

Almighty Father,
whose Son was revealed in majesty
before he suffered death upon the
cross:
give us grace to perceive his glory,
that we may be strengthened to
suffer with him
and be changed into his likeness,
from glory to glory;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING 2 Kings 2:1-12

A reading from the second book of Kings.

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel." But Elisha said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they went down to Bethel. The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he said, "Yes, I know; keep silent." Elijah said to him, "Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So they came to Jericho. The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, "Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?" And he answered, "Yes, I know; be silent." Then Elijah said to him, "Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan." But he said, "As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you." So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the

water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground. When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, "Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you." Elisha said, "Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit." He responded, "You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not." As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, "Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!" But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

PSALM Psalm 50:1-6

R *Our God will come and will not keep silence.*

The Lord, the God of gods, has spoken; he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting. Out of Zion, perfect in its beauty, God reveals himself in glory. **R**

Our God will come and will not keep silence; before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm. He calls the heavens and the earth from above to witness the judgement of his people. **R**

"Gather before me my loyal followers, those who have made a covenant with me and sealed it with sacrifice." Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause; for God himself is judge. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Corinthians 4:3-6

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In

their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Mark 9:2-9

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

Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

POST COMMUNION

Holy God,
we see your glory in the face of Jesus Christ:
may we who are partakers at his table reflect his life in word and deed,
that all the world may know
his power to change and save.
This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty
days in the wilderness,
and was tempted as we are, yet
without sin:
give us grace to discipline ourselves
in obedience to your Spirit;
and, as you know our weakness,
so may we know your power to save;
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 9:8-17

A reading from the book of Genesis.

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

PSALM Psalm 25:1-10

R *Your paths, O Lord, are love and faithfulness [to those who keep your covenant].*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.
Let none who look to you be put to
shame;
let the treacherous be disappointed
in their schemes. **R**

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.
Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day long. **R**

Remember, O Lord, your compassion
and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions;
remember me according to your love
and for the sake of your goodness,
O Lord. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in his
way.
He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly.
All the paths of the Lord are love
and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and
his testimonies.
For your name's sake, O Lord,
forgive my sin, for it is great. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Peter 3:18-end

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Christ also suffered for sins once
for all, the righteous for the
unrighteous, in order to bring you
to God. He was put to death in the
flesh, but made alive in the spirit,
in which also he went and made a
proclamation to the spirits in prison,
who in former times did not obey,
when God waited patiently in the

days of Noah, during the building of
the ark, in which a few, that is, eight
persons, were saved through water.
And baptism, which this prefigured,
now saves you – not as a removal of
dirt from the body, but as an appeal
to God for a good conscience,
through the resurrection of Jesus
Christ, who has gone into heaven
and is at the right hand of God,
with angels, authorities, and powers
made subject to him.

GOSPEL Mark 1:9-15

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

In those days Jesus came from
Nazareth of Galilee and was
baptized by John in the Jordan.
And just as he was coming up out
of the water, he saw the heavens
torn apart and the Spirit descending
like a dove on him. And a voice
came from heaven, "You are my
Son, the Beloved; with you I am well
pleased." And the Spirit immediately
drove him out into the wilderness.
He was in the wilderness forty days,
tempted by Satan; and he was with
the wild beasts; and the angels
waited on him. Now after John was
arrested, Jesus came to Galilee,
proclaiming the good news of God,
and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and
the kingdom of God has come near;
repent, and believe in the good
news."

POST COMMUNION

Lord God,
you have renewed us with the living
bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him
who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your
mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the
light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of
righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are
agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 17:1-7. 15-16

A reading from the book of Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you." God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

PSALM Psalm 22:22-30

R *All the ends of the earth shall turn to you,
O Lord.*

Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
For he does not despise nor abhor
the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them;
but when they cry to him he hears them. **R**

My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those who worship him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise
him:

"May your heart 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 kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations. **R**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
They shall come and make known to a
people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 4:13-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – Abraham believed in the presence of the God who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he

gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

GOSPEL

Either Mark 8:31-end

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

Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "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, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Or (RCL only) Mark 9:2-9

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of
ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all
adversities which may happen to the
body,
and from all evil thoughts which may
assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.