

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 1 Kings 3:5-12

A reading from the first book of Kings.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

PSALM Psalm 119:129-136

R *The opening of your word gives light.*

Your testimonies are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
The opening of your word gives light;
it gives understanding to the simple. **R**

I open my mouth and draw in my breath,
as I long for your commandments.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your way with those who love
your name. **R**

Order my steps by your word,
and let no wickedness have dominion
over me.

Redeem me from earthly oppressors
so that I may keep your commandments. **R**

Show the light of your countenance upon
your servant
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes run down with streams of water,
because the wicked do not keep your
law. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-28

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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. We know that all things
work together for good for those who
love God, who are called according to his
purpose. For those whom he foreknew
he also predestined to be conformed
to the image of his Son, in order that
he might be the firstborn within a large
family. And those whom he predestined
he also called; and those whom he called
he also justified; and those whom he
justified he also glorified. What then are
we to say about these things? If God is
for us, who is against us? He who did not
withhold his own Son, but gave him up
for all of us, will he not with him also give
us everything else? Who will bring any
charge against God's elect? It is God who
justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ
Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who
is at the right hand of God, who indeed
intercedes for us. Who will separate us
from the love of Christ? Will hardship,
or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is
written, "For your sake we are being killed
all day long; we are accounted as sheep
to be slaughtered." No, in all these things
we are more than conquerors through
him who loved us. For I am convinced that
neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
rulers, nor things present, nor things to

come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation, will be
able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52

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

Jesus put before the crowd another
parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like
a mustard seed that someone took and
sowed in his field; it is the smallest of
all the seeds, but when it has grown it
is the greatest of shrubs and becomes
a tree, so that the birds of the air come
and make nests in its branches." He told
them another parable: "The kingdom of
heaven is like yeast that a woman took
and mixed in with three measures of flour
until all of it was leavened. The kingdom
of heaven is like treasure hidden in a
field, which someone found and hid; then
in his joy he goes and sells all that he has
and buys that field. Again, the kingdom
of heaven is like a merchant in search of
fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great
value, he went and sold all that he had
and bought it. Again, the kingdom of
heaven is like a net that was thrown into
the sea and caught fish of every kind;
when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat
down, and put the good into baskets but
threw out the bad. So it will be at the
end of the age. The angels will come out
and separate the evil from the righteous
and throw them into the furnace of
fire, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth. Have you understood
all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he
said to them, "Therefore every scribe
who has been trained for the kingdom of
heaven is like the master of a household
who brings out of his treasure what is
new and what is old."

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.

