

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 22:23-end

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

Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
 O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
 stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.
 For he has not despised nor abhorred
 the suffering of the poor;
 neither has he hidden his face from them;
 but when they cried to him he heard
 them. **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 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 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."

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.