

COLLECT

Almighty God,
 who called your Church to bear witness
 that you were in Christ reconciling the
 world to yourself:
 help us to proclaim the good news of
 your love,
 that all who hear it may be drawn to
 you;
 through him who was lifted up on the
 cross,
 and reigns with you in the unity of the
 Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-9

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people; he said:
 So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes
 and ordinances that I am teaching
 you to observe, so that you may live
 to enter and occupy the land that the
 LORD, the God of your ancestors,
 is giving you. You must neither add
 anything to what I command you nor
 take away anything from it, but keep
 the commandments of the LORD your
 God with which I am charging you. You
 must observe them diligently, for this
 will show your wisdom and discernment
 to the peoples, who, when they hear
 all these statutes, will say, "Surely this
 great nation is a wise and discerning
 people!" For what other great nation
 has a god so near to it as the LORD our
 God is whenever we call to him? And
 what other great nation has statutes
 and ordinances as just as this entire law
 that I am setting before you today? But
 take care and watch yourselves closely,
 so as neither to forget the things that
 your eyes have seen nor to let them slip
 from your mind all the days of your life;
 make them known to your children and
 your children's children.

PSALM Psalm 15

R *Through the greatness of your
 mercy, I will come into your house.*

Lord, who may dwell in your
 tabernacle?
 Who may rest upon your holy hill?

Whoever leads an uncorrupt life
 and does the thing that is right; **R**

Who speaks the truth from the heart
 and bears no deceit on the tongue;
 Who does no evil to a friend
 and pours no scorn on a neighbour; **R**

In whose sight the wicked are not
 esteemed,
 but who honours those who fear the
 Lord.

Whoever has sworn to a neighbour
 and never goes back on that word; **R**

Who does not lend money in hope of
 gain,
 nor takes a bribe against the innocent;
 Whoever does these things
 shall never fall. **R**

SECOND READING James 1:17-end

A reading from the letter of James.

Every generous act of giving, with every
 perfect gift, is from above, coming
 down from the Father of lights, with
 whom there is no variation or shadow
 due to change. In fulfilment of his own
 purpose he gave us birth by the word
 of truth, so that we would become a
 kind of first fruits of his creatures. You
 must understand this, my beloved: let
 everyone be quick to listen, slow to
 speak, slow to anger; for your anger
 does not produce God's righteousness.
 Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness
 and rank growth of wickedness, and
 welcome with meekness the implanted
 word that has the power to save your
 souls. But be doers of the word, and not
 merely hearers who deceive themselves.
 For if any are hearers of the word and
 not doers, they are like those who look
 at themselves in a mirror; for they look
 at themselves and, on going away,
 immediately forget what they were like.
 But those who look into the perfect law,
 the law of liberty, and persevere, being
 not hearers who forget but doers who
 act – they will be blessed in their doing.
 If any think they are religious, and do
 not bridle their tongues but deceive
 their hearts, their religion is worthless.
 Religion that is pure and undefiled
 before God, the Father, is this: to care
 for orphans and widows in their distress,

and to keep oneself unstained by the
 world.

GOSPEL Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

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

When the Pharisees and some of the
 scribes who had come from Jerusalem
 gathered around Jesus, they noticed
 that some of his disciples were eating
 with defiled hands, that is, without
 washing them. (For the Pharisees, and
 all the Jews, do not eat unless they
 thoroughly wash their hands, thus
 observing the tradition of the elders;
 and they do not eat anything from the
 market unless they wash it; and there
 are also many other traditions that they
 observe, the washing of cups, pots,
 and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees
 and the scribes asked him, "Why do
 your disciples not live according to
 the tradition of the elders, but eat
 with defiled hands?" Jesus said to
 them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about
 you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This
 people honours me with their lips, but
 their hearts are far from me; in vain
 do they worship me, teaching human
 precepts as doctrines.' You abandon
 the commandment of God and hold to
 human tradition." Then he called the
 crowd again and said to them, "Listen
 to me, all of you, and understand:
 there is nothing outside a person that
 by going in can defile, but the things
 that come out are what defile. For it is
 from within, from the human heart, that
 evil intentions come: fornication, theft,
 murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness,
 deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander,
 pride, folly. All these evil things come
 from within, and they defile a person."

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
 you feed your children with the true
 manna,
 the living bread from heaven:
 let this holy food sustain us through
 our earthly pilgrimage
 until we come to that place where
 hunger and thirst are no more;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through the great - ness of your mer - cy, I will come in - to your house.

Sunday. The Revised Common Lectionary is copyright © the Consultation on Common Texts, 1992. The Christian Year: Calendar, Lectionary and Collects, 1997, which includes The Common Worship Lectionary (the Church of England's adaptations of the Revised Common Lectionary, published as the Principal Service Lectionary) and the compilation of Collects and Post Communion Prayers, is copyright © The Archbishops' Council, and material from it is reproduced with permission. Bible readings from NRSV published by Mowbray and used by permission. All rights reserved. Copyright © Redemptorist Publications Wolf's Lane Chawton Hampshire GU34 3HQ. A Registered Charity limited by guarantee. Registered in England 03261721. www.rpbooks.co.uk Email rp@rpbooks.co.uk

