

COLLECT

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust
in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our
mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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 65:1-9

*A reading from the book of the prophet
Isaiah.*

The word of the Lord through the prophet:
I was ready to be sought out by those who
did not ask, to be found by those who did
not seek me. I said, "Here
I am, here I am," to a nation that did not
call on my name. I held out my hands all
day long to a rebellious people, who walk
in a way that is not good, following their
own devices; a people who provoke me to
my face continually, sacrificing in gardens
and offering incense on bricks; who sit
inside tombs, and spend the night in secret
places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth
of abominable things in their vessels; who
say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near
me, for I am too holy for you." These are
a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns
all day long. See, it is written before me:
I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will
indeed repay into their laps their iniquities
and their ancestors' iniquities together, says
the LORD; because they offered incense on
the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I
will measure into their laps full payment for
their actions. Thus says the LORD: As the
wine is found in the cluster, and they say,
"Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing
in it," so I will do for my servants' sake,
and not destroy them all. I will bring forth
descendants from Jacob, and from Judah
inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall
inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

PSALM Psalm 22:19-28

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

Be not far from me, O Lord;
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
Deliver my soul from the sword,
my poor life from the power of the dog.



Be not far from me, O Lord.

Save me from the lion's mouth,
from the horns of wild oxen.
You have answered me! **R**

I will tell of your name to my people;
in the midst of the congregation will I praise
you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel. **R**

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.

From you comes my praise in the great
congregation;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those that fear you. **R**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever.

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**

SECOND READING

Galatians 3:23-end

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

Before faith came, we were imprisoned and
guarded under the law until faith would
be revealed. Therefore the law was our
disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we
might be justified by faith. But now that
faith has come, we are no longer subject to
a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are
all children of God through faith. As many
of you as were baptized into Christ have
clothed yourselves with Christ; there is no
longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer
slave or free, there is no longer male and
female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.
And if you belong to Christ, then you are
Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the
promise.

GOSPEL Luke 8:26-39

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

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country
of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.
As he stepped out on land, a man of the city
who had demons met him. For a long time
he had worn no clothes, and he did not live

in a house but in the tombs. When he saw
Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted
at the top of his voice, "What have you to
do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High
God? I beg you, do not torment me" – for
Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit
to come out of the man. (For many times it
had seized him; he was kept under guard
and bound with chains and shackles, but
he would break the bonds and be driven
by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then
asked him, "What is your name?" He said,
"Legion"; for many demons had entered
him. They begged him not to order them to
go back into the abyss. Now there on the
hillside a large herd of swine was feeding;
and the demons begged Jesus to let them
enter these. So he gave them permission.
Then the demons came out of the man and
entered the swine, and the herd rushed
down the steep bank into the lake and was
drowned. When the swineherds saw what
had happened, they ran off and told it in
the city and in the country. Then people
came out to see what had happened, and
when they came to Jesus, they found the
man from whom the demons had gone
sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and
in his right mind. And they were afraid.
Those who had seen it told them how the
one who had been possessed by demons
had been healed. Then all the people of
the surrounding country of the Gerasenes
asked Jesus to leave them; for they were
seized with great fear. So he got into the
boat and returned. The man from whom the
demons had gone begged that he might be
with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying,
"Return to your home, and declare how
much God has done for you." So he went
away, proclaiming throughout the city how
much Jesus had done for him.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.