

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who sent your Holy Spirit
to be the life and light of your Church:
open our hearts to the riches of your
grace,
that we may bring forth the fruit of the
Spirit
in love and joy and peace;
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

Jeremiah 23:23-29

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Am I a God near by, says the LORD,
and not a God far off? Who can hide
in secret places so that I cannot see
them? says the LORD. Do I not fill
heaven and earth? says the LORD. I
have heard what the prophets have
said who prophesy lies in my name,
saying, "I have dreamed, I have
dreamed!" How long? Will the hearts
of the prophets ever turn back – those
who prophesy lies, and who prophesy
the deceit of their own heart? They
plan to make my people forget my
name by their dreams that they tell one
another, just as their ancestors forgot
my name for Baal. Let the prophet who
has a dream tell the dream, but let the
one who has my word speak my word
faithfully. What has straw in common
with wheat? says the LORD. Is not my
word like fire, says the LORD, and like
a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

PSALM Psalm 82

R Arise, O God, and judge the earth.

God has taken his stand in the council of
heaven;
in the midst of the gods he gives
judgement:
"How long will you judge unjustly
and show such favour to the wicked? **R**
"You were to judge the weak and the
orphan;
defend the right of the humble and
needy;
"Rescue the weak and the poor;
deliver them from the hand of the
wicked. **R**

"They have no knowledge or wisdom;
they walk on still in darkness:
all the foundations of the earth are
shaken.

"Therefore I say that though you are
gods
and all of you children of the Most
High, **R**

"Nevertheless, you shall die like mortals
and fall like one of their princes."
Arise, O God and judge the earth,
for it is you that shall take all nations for
your possession. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

By faith the people of Israel passed
through the Red Sea as if it were
dry land, but when the Egyptians
attempted to do so they were
drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho
fell after they had been encircled
for seven days. By faith Rahab the
prostitute did not perish with those
who were disobedient, because she
had received the spies in peace.
And what more should I say? For
time would fail me to tell of Gideon,
Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David
and Samuel and the prophets – who
through faith conquered kingdoms,
administered justice, obtained
promises, shut the mouths of lions,
quenched raging fire, escaped the
edge of the sword, won strength out
of weakness, became mighty in war,
put foreign armies to flight. Women
received their dead by resurrection.
Others were tortured, refusing to
accept release, in order to obtain a
better resurrection. Others suffered
mocking and flogging, and even
chains and imprisonment. They were
stoned to death, they were sawn in
two, they were killed by the sword;
they went about in skins of sheep
and goats, destitute, persecuted,
tormented – of whom the world was
not worthy. They wandered in deserts
and mountains, and in caves and holes
in the ground. Yet all these, though
they were commended for their faith,
did not receive what was promised,
since God had provided something
better so that they would not, apart

from us, be made perfect. Therefore,
since we are surrounded by so great
a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay
aside every weight and the sin that
clings so closely, and let us run with
perseverance the race that is set
before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer
and perfecter of our faith, who for the
sake of the joy that was set before him
endured the cross, disregarding its
shame, and has taken his seat at the
right hand of the throne of God.

GOSPEL Luke 12:49-56

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "I came
to bring fire to the earth, and how I
wish it were already kindled! I have a
baptism with which to be baptized,
and what stress I am under until it is
completed! Do you think that I have
come to bring peace to the earth? No,
I tell you, but rather division! From
now on five in one household will be
divided, three against two and two
against three; they will be divided:
father against son and son against
father, mother against daughter and
daughter against mother, mother-in-
law against her daughter-in-law and
daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."
He also said to the crowds, "When
you see a cloud rising in the west, you
immediately say, 'It is going to rain';
and so it happens. And when you
see the south wind blowing, you say,
'There will be scorching heat'; and it
happens. You hypocrites! You know
how to interpret the appearance of
earth and sky, but why do you not
know how to interpret the present
time?"

POST COMMUNION

Holy Father,
who gathered us here around the table
of your Son
to share this meal with the whole
household of God:
in that new world where you reveal the
fullness of your peace,
gather people of every race and
language to share in the eternal
banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

