

## COLLECT

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to  
the throne of heaven  
that he might rule over all things as  
Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the  
Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to  
worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Jeremiah 23:1-6

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

Woe to the shepherds who destroy  
and scatter the sheep of my pasture!  
says the LORD. Therefore thus  
says the LORD, the God of Israel,  
concerning the shepherds who  
shepherd my people: It is you who  
have scattered my flock, and have  
driven them away, and you have not  
attended to them. So I will attend  
to you for your evil doings, says the  
LORD. Then I myself will gather the  
remnant of my flock out of all the  
lands where I have driven them,  
and I will bring them back to their  
fold, and they shall be fruitful and  
multiply. I will raise up shepherds over  
them who will shepherd them, and  
they shall not fear any longer, or be  
dismayed, nor shall any be missing,  
says the LORD. The days are surely  
coming, says the LORD, when I will  
raise up for David a righteous Branch,  
and he shall reign as king and deal  
wisely, and shall execute justice and  
righteousness in the land. In his days  
Judah will be saved and Israel will  
live in safety. And this is the name by  
which he will be called: "The LORD is  
our righteousness."

## PSALM Psalm 46

**R** *The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble;  
Therefore we will not fear, though the  
earth be moved,  
and though the mountains tremble in  
the heart of the sea; **R**

Though the waters rage and swell,  
and though the mountains quake at  
the towering seas.

There is a river whose streams make  
glad the city of God,  
the holy place of the dwelling of the  
Most High. **R**

God is in the midst of her;  
therefore shall she not be removed;  
God shall help her at the break of  
day.

The nations are in uproar and the  
kingdoms are shaken,  
but God utters his voice and the earth  
shall melt away. **R**

Come and behold the works of the  
Lord,  
what destruction he has wrought  
upon the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the  
world;  
he shatters the bow and snaps the  
spear and burns the chariots in the  
fire.

"Be still, and know that I am God;  
I will be exalted among the nations;  
I will be exalted in the earth." **R**

## SECOND READING

**Colossians 1:11-20**

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

Brothers and sisters: May you be  
made strong with all the strength  
that comes from his glorious power,  
and may you be prepared to endure  
everything with patience, while  
joyfully giving thanks to the Father,  
who has enabled you to share in the  
inheritance of the saints in the light.  
He has rescued us from the power  
of darkness and transferred us into  
the kingdom of his beloved Son,  
in whom we have redemption, the  
forgiveness of sins. He is the image  
of the invisible God, the firstborn of  
all creation; for in him all things in  
heaven and on earth were created,  
things visible and invisible, whether  
thrones or dominions or rulers or  
powers – all things have been created  
through him and for him. He himself  
is before all things, and in him all  
things hold together. He is the head  
of the body, the church; he is the  
beginning, the firstborn from the  
dead, so that he might come to have

first place in everything. For in him  
all the fullness of God was pleased  
to dwell, and through him God was  
pleased to reconcile to himself all  
things, whether on earth or in heaven,  
by making peace through the blood  
of his cross.

## GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43

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

When they came to the place that  
is called The Skull, they crucified  
Jesus there with the criminals, one  
on his right and one on his left. Then  
Jesus said, "Father, forgive them;  
for they do not know what they are  
doing." And they cast lots to divide  
his clothing. And the people stood  
by, watching; but the leaders scoffed  
at him, saying, "He saved others; let  
him save himself if he is the Messiah  
of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers  
also mocked him, coming up and  
offering him sour wine, and saying,  
"If you are the King of the Jews,  
save yourself!" There was also an  
inscription over him, "This is the King  
of the Jews." One of the criminals  
who were hanged there kept deriding  
him and saying, "Are you not the  
Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But  
the other rebuked him, saying, "Do  
you not fear God, since you are under  
the same sentence of condemnation?  
And we indeed have been  
condemned justly, for we are getting  
what we deserve for our deeds, but  
this man has done nothing wrong."  
Then he said, "Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your kingdom."  
Jesus replied, "Truly I tell you, today  
you will be with me in Paradise."

## POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,  
the wills of your faithful people;  
that they, plenteously bringing forth  
the fruit of good works,  
may by you be plenteously rewarded;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

