

## COLLECT

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the king of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those  
in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages  
of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle  
rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Job 19:23-27a

*A reading from the book of Job.*

Job said to his companions: "O that  
my words were written down! O that  
they were inscribed in a book! O that  
with an iron pen and with lead they  
were engraved on a rock for ever! For  
I know that my Redeemer lives, and  
that at the last he will stand upon the  
earth; and after my skin has been thus  
destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see  
God, whom I shall see on my side,  
and my eyes shall behold, and not  
another."

## PSALM Psalm 17:1-9 [or 1-8]

**R** Deliver me, O Lord, by your  
hand.

Hear my just cause, O Lord; consider  
my complaint;  
listen to my prayer, which comes not  
from lying lips.  
Let my vindication come forth from  
your presence;  
let your eyes behold what is right. **R**

Weigh my heart, examine me by  
night,  
refine me, and you will find no  
impurity in me.  
My mouth does not trespass for  
earthly rewards;  
I have heeded the words of your lips.  
My footsteps hold fast in the ways of  
your commandments;  
my feet have not stumbled in your  
paths. **R**

I call upon you, O God, for you will  
answer me;

incline your ear to me, and listen to  
my words.  
Show me your marvellous loving-  
kindness,  
O Saviour of those who take refuge at  
your right hand from those who rise  
up against them. **R**

Keep me as the apple of your eye;  
hide me under the shadow of your  
wings,  
From the wicked who assault me,  
from my enemies who surround me to  
take away my life. **R**

## SECOND READING

**2 Thessalonians 2:1-5. 13-end**

*A reading from the second letter of  
Paul to the Thessalonians.*

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus  
Christ and our being gathered  
together to him, we beg you,  
brothers and sisters, not to be quickly  
shaken in mind or alarmed, either  
by spirit or by word or by letter, as  
though from us, to the effect that  
the day of the Lord is already here.  
Let no one deceive you in any way;  
for that day will not come unless the  
rebellion comes first and the lawless  
one is revealed, the one destined  
for destruction. He opposes and  
exalts himself above every so-called  
god or object of worship, so that he  
takes his seat in the temple of God,  
declaring himself to be God. Do you  
not remember that I told you these  
things when I was still with you? But  
we must always give thanks to God  
for you, brothers and sisters beloved  
by the Lord, because God chose you  
as the first fruits for salvation through  
sanctification by the Spirit and  
through belief in the truth. For this  
purpose he called you through our  
proclamation of the good news, so  
that you may obtain the glory of our  
Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers  
and sisters, stand firm and hold fast  
to the traditions that you were taught  
by us, either by word of mouth or by  
our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus  
Christ himself and God our Father,  
who loved us and through grace gave  
us eternal comfort and good hope,

comfort your hearts and strengthen  
them in every good work and word.

## GOSPEL Luke 20:27-38

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

Some Sadducees, those who say  
there is no resurrection, came to  
Jesus, and asked him a question,  
"Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if  
a man's brother dies, leaving a wife  
but no children, the man shall marry  
the widow and raise up children for  
his brother. Now there were seven  
brothers; the first married, and died  
childless; then the second and the  
third married her, and so in the  
same way all seven died childless.  
Finally the woman also died. In the  
resurrection, therefore, whose wife  
will the woman be? For the seven  
had married her." Jesus said to them,  
"Those who belong to this age marry  
and are given in marriage; but those  
who are considered worthy of a place  
in that age and in the resurrection  
from the dead neither marry nor are  
given in marriage. Indeed they cannot  
die any more, because they are like  
angels and are children of God, being  
children of the resurrection. And the  
fact that the dead are raised Moses  
himself showed, in the story about  
the bush, where he speaks of the  
Lord as the God of Abraham, the  
God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.  
Now he is God not of the dead, but  
of the living; for to him all of them are  
alive."

## POST COMMUNION

God of peace,  
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed  
the kingdom  
and restored the broken to wholeness  
of life:  
look with compassion on the anguish  
of the world,  
and by your healing power  
make whole both people and nations;  
through our Lord and Saviour  
Jesus Christ.

