

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you show to those who are in error the  
light of your truth,  
that they may return to the way of  
righteousness:  
grant to all those who are admitted into  
the fellowship of Christ's  
religion,  
that they may reject those things that  
are contrary to their profession,  
and follow all such things as are  
agreeable to the same;  
through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from  
your country and your kindred and your  
father's house to the land that  
I will show you. I will make of you a  
great nation, and I will bless you, and  
make your name great, so that you will  
be a blessing. I will bless those who  
bless you, and the one who curses you  
I will curse; and in you all the families of  
the earth shall be blessed." So Abram  
went, as the LORD had told him; and  
Lot went with him.

## PSALM Psalm 121

**R** *The Lord shall keep you from all evil.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth. **R**

He will not suffer your foot to stumble;  
he who watches over you will not sleep.  
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**

The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right  
hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by  
day,  
neither the moon by night. **R**

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep your soul.

The Lord shall keep watch over your  
going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 4:1-5. 13-17**

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

What are we to say was gained by  
Abraham, our ancestor according to  
the flesh? For if Abraham was justified  
by works, he has something to boast  
about, but not before God. For what  
does the scripture say? "Abraham  
believed God, and it was reckoned to  
him as righteousness." Now to one who  
works, wages are not reckoned as a gift  
but as something due. But to one who  
without works trusts him who justifies  
the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as  
righteousness. For the promise that he  
would inherit the world did not come to  
Abraham or to his descendants through  
the law but through the righteousness  
of faith. If it is the adherents of the law  
who are to be the heirs, faith is null  
and the promise is void. For the law  
brings wrath; but where there is no  
law, neither is there violation. For this  
reason it depends on faith, in order  
that the promise may rest on grace and  
be guaranteed to all his descendants,  
not only to the adherents of the law  
but also to those who share the faith  
of Abraham (for he is the father of all  
of us, as it is written, "I have made you  
the father of many nations") – Abraham  
believed in the presence of the God  
who gives life to the dead and calls into  
existence the things that do not exist.

## GOSPEL John 3:1-17

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

There was a Pharisee named  
Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He  
came to Jesus by night and said to  
him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a  
teacher who has come from God; for  
no one can do these signs that you  
do apart from the presence of God." Jesus  
answered him, "Very truly, I tell  
you, no one can see the kingdom of

God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

## POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,  
you see that we have no power of  
ourselves to help ourselves:  
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,  
and inwardly in our souls;  
that we may be defended from all  
adversities which may happen to  
the body,  
and from all evil thoughts  
which may assault and hurt the soul;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

