

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to
us the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going
before us you put into our minds
good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be used
as either the first or second reading.*

Either Acts 7:55-end

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

Standing before the high priest and
the council, Stephen, filled with the
Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and
saw the glory of God and Jesus
standing at the right hand of God.
"Look," he said, "I see the heavens
opened and the Son of Man standing
at the right hand of God!" But they
covered their ears, and with a loud
shout all rushed together against
him. Then they dragged him out of
the city and began to stone him; and
the witnesses laid their coats at the
feet of a young man named Saul.
While they were stoning Stephen,
he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my
spirit." Then he knelt down and cried
out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not
hold this sin against them." When he
had said this, he died.

Or Genesis 8:1-19

PSALM Psalm 31:1-5. 15-16

R *Into your hands I commend my
spirit, for you have redeemed me,
O Lord God of truth.*

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.
Incline your ear to me;
make haste to deliver me.

Be my strong rock, a fortress to save
me, for you are my rock and my
stronghold;
guide me, and lead me for your
name's sake. **R**

Take me out of the net
that they have laid secretly for me,
for you are my strength.
Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord
God of truth. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 1 Peter 2:2-10

*A reading from the first letter of
Peter.*

Like newborn infants, long for the
pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you
may grow into salvation – if indeed
you have tasted that the Lord is
good. Come to him, a living stone,
though rejected by mortals yet
chosen and precious in God's sight.
Like living stones, let yourselves be
built into a spiritual house, to be a
holy priesthood, to offer spiritual
sacrifices acceptable to God through
Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:
"See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a
cornerstone chosen and precious;
and whoever believes in him will not
be put to shame." To you then who
believe, he is precious; but for those
who do not believe, "The stone that
the builders rejected has become the
very head of the corner," and
"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."
They stumble because they disobey
the word, as they were destined to
do. But you are a chosen race, a
royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's
own people, in order that you may
proclaim the mighty acts of him who
called you out of darkness into his
marvellous light. Once you were
not a people, but now you are
God's people; once you had not
received mercy, but now you have
received mercy.

Or Acts 7:55-end

GOSPEL John 14:1-14

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not
let your hearts be troubled. Believe in
God, believe also in me. In my Father's
house there are many dwelling-places.
If it were not so, would I have told you
that I go to prepare a place for you?
And if I go and prepare a place for
you, I will come again and will take you
to myself, so that where I am, there
you may be also. And you know the
way to the place where I am going."
Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do
not know where you are going. How
can we know the way?" Jesus said to
him, "I am the way, and the truth, and
the life. No one comes to the Father
except through me. If you know me,
you will know my Father also. From
now on you do know him and have
seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord,
show us the Father, and we will be
satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I
been with you all this time, Philip, and
you still do not know me? Whoever
has seen me has seen the Father. How
can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do
you not believe that I am in the Father
and the Father is in me? The words
that I say to you I do not speak on my
own; but the Father who dwells in me
does his works. Believe me that I am in
the Father and the Father is in me; but
if you do not, then believe me because
of the works themselves. Very truly, I
tell you, the one who believes in me
will also do the works that I do and, in
fact, will do greater works than these,
because I am going to the Father. I
will do whatever you ask in my name,
so that the Father may be glorified in
the Son. If in my name you ask me for
anything, I will do it."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way,
the truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.

