

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have broken the tyranny of sin
and have sent the Spirit of your Son into
our hearts whereby we call you Father:
give us grace to dedicate our freedom to
your service,
that we and all creation may be brought
to the glorious liberty of the children of
God;
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 20:7-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah cried out: O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.



PSALM Psalm 69:8-11. (12-17). 18-20 (or 69:14-20)

R Hide not your face from your servant,
O Lord.

For your sake have I suffered reproach;
shame has covered my face.
I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children. **R**

Zeal for your house has eaten me up;
the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen
upon me.

I humbled myself with fasting,
but that was turned to my reproach. **R**

I put on sack cloth also
and became a byword among them.
Those who sit at the gate murmur against
me,
and the drunkards make songs about me. **R**

But as for me, I make my prayer to you,
O Lord;
at an acceptable time, O God.
Answer me, O God, in the abundance of
your mercy
and with your sure salvation. **R**

Draw me out of the mire, that I sink not;
let me be rescued from those who hate me
and out of the deep waters.
Let not the water flood drown me,
neither the deep swallow me up;
let not the Pit shut its mouth upon me. **R**

Answer me, Lord, for your loving-kindness
is good;
turn to me in the multitude of your mercies.
Hide not your face from your servant;
be swift to answer me, for I am in trouble.
Draw near to my soul and redeem me;
deliver me because of my enemies. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 6:1b-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Should we continue in sin in order that
grace may abound? By no means! How
can we who died to sin go on living in it?
Do you not know that all of us who have
been baptized into Christ Jesus were
baptized into his death? Therefore we
have been buried with him by baptism
into death, so that, just as Christ was
raised from the dead by the glory of the
Father, so we too might walk in newness
of life. For if we have been united with
him in a death like his, we will certainly be
united with him in a resurrection like his.
We know that our old self was crucified
with him so that the body of sin might be
destroyed, and we might no longer be
enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is
freed from sin. But if we have died with
Christ, we believe that we will also live
with him. We know that Christ, being
raised from the dead, will never die again;
death no longer has dominion over him.
The death he died, he died to sin, once for
all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So

you also must consider yourselves dead to
sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 10:24-39

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

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent
them out with the following instruction:
"A disciple is not above the teacher, nor
a slave above the master; it is enough for
the disciple to be like the teacher, and the
slave like the master. If they have called
the master of the house Beelzebul, how
much more will they malign those of his
household! So have no fear of them; for
nothing is covered up that will not be
uncovered, and nothing secret that will
not become known. What I say to you
in the dark, tell in the light; and what
you hear whispered, proclaim from the
housetops. Do not fear those who kill
the body but cannot kill the soul; rather
fear him who can destroy both soul and
body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold
for a penny? Yet not one of them will
fall to the ground unperceived by your
Father. And even the hairs of your head
are all counted. So do not be afraid; you
are of more value than many sparrows.
Everyone therefore who acknowledges
me before others, I also will acknowledge
before my Father in heaven; but whoever
denies me before others, I also will deny
before my Father in heaven. Do not think
that I have come to bring peace to the
earth; I have not come to bring peace,
but a sword. For I have come to set a
man against his father, and a daughter
against her mother, and a daughter-in-law
against her mother-in-law; and one's foes
will be members of one's own household.
Whoever loves father or mother more
than me is not worthy of me; and whoever
loves son or daughter more than me is
not worthy of me; and whoever does not
take up the cross and follow me is not
worthy of me. Those who find their life
will lose it, and those who lose their life
for my sake will find it."

POST COMMUNION

O God, whose beauty is beyond our
imagining
and whose power we cannot comprehend:
show us your glory as far as we can grasp
it,
and shield us from knowing more than we
can bear
until we may look upon you without fear;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

