

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the  
Church is governed and  
sanctified:

hear our prayer which we offer for all  
your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and  
truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus  
Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Zechariah 9:9-12

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

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey, on  
a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will  
cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the  
nations; his dominion shall be from  
sea to sea, and from the River to the  
ends of the earth. As for you also,  
because of the blood of my covenant  
with you, I will set your prisoners free  
from the waterless pit. Return to your  
stronghold, O prisoners of hope;  
today I declare that I will restore to  
you double.

Or **Genesis 24:34-38. 42-49. 58-end**

## PSALM Psalm 145:8-15

**R** *Great is the Lord and highly to  
be praised.*

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
long-suffering and of great goodness.  
The Lord is loving to everyone  
and his mercy is over all his creatures. **R**



Great is the Lord and high - ly to be praised

All your works praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful servants bless you.  
They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your mighty power, **R**

To make known to all peoples your  
mighty acts  
and the glorious splendour of your  
kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting  
kingdom;  
your dominion endures throughout all  
ages. **R**

The Lord is sure in all his words  
and faithful in all his deeds.  
The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up all those who are bowed  
down. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 7:15-25a**

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

I do not understand my own actions.  
For I do not do what I want, but I  
do the very thing I hate. Now if I do  
what I do not want, I agree that the  
law is good. But in fact it is no longer  
I that do it, but sin that dwells within  
me. For I know that nothing good  
dwells within me, that is, in my flesh.  
I can will what is right, but I cannot  
do it. For I do not do the good I  
want, but the evil I do not want is  
what I do. Now if I do what I do not  
want, it is no longer I that do it, but  
sin that dwells within me. So I find it  
to be a law that when I want to do  
what is good, evil lies close at hand.  
For I delight in the law of God in my  
inmost self, but I see in my members  
another law at war with the law of  
my mind, making me captive to the  
law of sin that dwells in my members.  
Wretched man that I am! Who will  
rescue me from this body of death?  
Thanks be to God through Jesus  
Christ our Lord!

## GOSPEL

**Matthew 11:16-19. 25-end**

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

At that time Jesus said, "To what will  
I compare this generation?  
It is like children sitting in the market-  
places and calling to one another,  
'We played the flute for you, and  
you did not dance; we wailed, and  
you did not mourn.' For John came  
neither eating nor drinking, and  
they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son  
of Man came eating and drinking,  
and they say, 'Look, a glutton and  
a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors  
and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated  
by her deeds. I thank you, Father,  
Lord of heaven and earth, because  
you have hidden these things from  
the wise and the intelligent and have  
revealed them to infants; yes, Father,  
for such was your gracious will. All  
things have been handed over to me  
by my Father; and no one knows the  
Son except the Father, and no one  
knows the Father except the Son and  
anyone to whom the Son chooses  
to reveal him. Come to me, all you  
that are weary and are carrying heavy  
burdens, and I will give you rest. Take  
my yoke upon you, and learn from  
me; for I am gentle and humble in  
heart, and you will find rest for your  
souls. For my yoke is easy, and my  
burden is light."

## POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,  
that the course of this world may be  
so peaceably ordered by  
your governance,  
that your Church may joyfully serve  
you in all godly quietness;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.