

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your
presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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

Either **Deuteronomy 4:1-2. 6-9**

A reading from the book of Deuteronomy.

Moses spoke to the people; he said:
So now, Israel, give heed to the
statutes and ordinances that I am
teaching you to observe, so that
you may live to enter and occupy
the land that the LORD, the God of
your ancestors, is giving you. You
must neither add anything to what I
command you nor take away anything
from it, but keep the commandments
of the LORD your God with which I
am charging you. You must observe
them diligently, for this will show
your wisdom and discernment to the
peoples, who, when they hear all
these statutes, will say, "Surely this
great nation is a wise and discerning
people!" For what other great nation
has a god so near to it as the LORD
our God is whenever we call to him?
And what other great nation has
statutes and ordinances as just as this
entire law that I am setting before
you today? But take care and watch
yourselves closely, so as neither to
forget the things that your eyes have
seen nor to let them slip from your
mind all the days of your life; make
them known to your children and your
children's children.

Or **Song of Solomon 2:8-13**

PSALM Psalm 15

R *Through the greatness of your
mercy, I will come into your house.*

Lord, who may dwell in your
tabernacle?

Who may rest upon your holy hill?



Whoever leads an uncorrupt life
and does the thing that is right; **R**

Who speaks the truth from the heart
and bears no deceit on the tongue;
Who does no evil to a friend
and pours no scorn on a neighbour; **R**

In whose sight the wicked are not
esteemed,
but who honours those who fear the
Lord.

Whoever has sworn to a neighbour
and never goes back on that word; **R**

Who does not lend money in hope of
gain,
nor takes a bribe against the innocent;
Whoever does these things
shall never fall. **R**

SECOND READING James 1:17-end

A reading from the letter of James.

Every generous act of giving, with
every perfect gift, is from above,
coming down from the Father of lights,
with whom there is no variation or
shadow due to change. In fulfilment of
his own purpose he gave us birth by
the word of truth, so that we would
become a kind of first fruits of his
creatures. You must understand this,
my beloved: let everyone be quick to
listen, slow to speak, slow to anger;
for your anger does not produce
God's righteousness. Therefore rid
yourselves of all sordidness and rank
growth of wickedness, and welcome
with meekness the implanted word that
has the power to save your souls. But
be doers of the word, and not merely
hearers who deceive themselves. For
if any are hearers of the word and not
doers, they are like those who look at
themselves in a mirror; for they look
at themselves and, on going away,
immediately forget what they were like.
But those who look into the perfect
law, the law of liberty, and persevere,
being not hearers who forget but
doers who act – they will be blessed
in their doing. If any think they are
religious, and do not bridle their
tongues but deceive their hearts, their
religion is worthless. Religion that is
pure and undefiled before God, the
Father, is this: to care for orphans and

widows in their distress, and to keep
oneself unstained by the world.

GOSPEL Mark 7:1-8. 14-15. 21-23

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

When the Pharisees and some of the
scribes who had come from Jerusalem
gathered around Jesus, they noticed
that some of his disciples were eating
with defiled hands, that is, without
washing them. (For the Pharisees, and
all the Jews, do not eat unless they
thoroughly wash their hands, thus
observing the tradition of the elders;
and they do not eat anything from the
market unless they wash it; and there
are also many other traditions that they
observe, the washing of cups, pots,
and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees
and the scribes asked him, "Why
do your disciples not live according to
the tradition of the elders, but
eat with defiled hands?" Jesus said
to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly
about you hypocrites, as it is written,
'This people honours me with their
lips, but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me, teaching
human precepts as doctrines.' You
abandon the commandment of God
and hold to human tradition." Then
he called the crowd again and said to
them, "Listen to me, all of you, and
understand: there is nothing outside
a person that by going in can defile,
but the things that come out are
what defile. For it is from within, from
the human heart, that evil intentions
come: fornication, theft, murder,
adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit,
licentiousness, envy, slander, pride,
folly. All these evil things come from
within, and they defile a person."

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles'
teaching and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of
bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.