

COLLECT

O God,
the strength of all those who put their trust
in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of our
mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your commandments
we may please you both in will and deed;
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 Isaiah 65:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The word of the Lord through the prophet:
I was ready to be sought out by those
who did not ask, to be found by those
who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am,
here I am," to a nation that did not call
on my name. I held out my hands all day
long to a rebellious people, who walk in a
way that is not good, following their own
devices; a people who provoke me to my
face continually, sacrificing in gardens and
offering incense on bricks; who sit inside
tombs, and spend the night in secret
places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth
of abominable things in their vessels; who
say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near
me, for I am too holy for you." These are
a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all
day long. See, it is written before me: I will
not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed
repay into their laps their iniquities and
their ancestors' iniquities together, says the
LORD; because they offered incense on the
mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will
measure into their laps full payment for their
actions. Thus says the LORD: As the wine is
found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not
destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I
will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy
them all. I will bring forth descendants from
Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my
mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my
servants shall settle there.

Or 1 Kings 19:1-4 [5-7] 8-15a



PSALM Psalm 22:19-28

R Be not far from me, O Lord.

Be not far from me, O Lord;
you are my strength; hasten to help me.



Be not far from me, O Lord.

Deliver my soul from the sword,
my poor life from the power of the dog.

Save me from the lion's mouth,
from the horns of wild oxen.
You have answered me! **R**

I will tell of your name to my people;
in the midst of the congregation will I praise
you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel. **R**

For he has not despised nor abhorred the
suffering of the poor;
neither has he hidden his face from them;
but when they cried to him he heard them.
From you comes my praise in the great
congregation;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those that fear you. **R**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever.

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations shall bow
before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's
and he rules over the nations. **R**

SECOND READING Galatians 3:23-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Before faith came, we were imprisoned and
guarded under the law until faith would
be revealed. Therefore the law was our
disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we
might be justified by faith. But now that
faith has come, we are no longer subject to
a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are
all children of God through faith. As many
of you as were baptised into Christ have
clothed yourselves with Christ; there is no
longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer
slave or free, there is no longer male and
female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.
And if you belong to Christ, then you are
Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the
promise.

GOSPEL Luke 8:26-39

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

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country
of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.
As he stepped out on land, a man of the city
who had demons met him. For a long time

he had worn no clothes, and he did not live
in a house but in the tombs. When he saw
Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted
at the top of his voice, "What have you to do
with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?
I beg you, do not torment me" – for Jesus
had commanded the unclean spirit to come
out of the man. (For many times it had seized
him; he was kept under guard and bound
with chains and shackles, but he would break
the bonds and be driven by the demon into
the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is
your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many
demons had entered him. They begged him
not to order them to go back into the abyss.
Now there on the hillside a large herd of
swine was feeding; and the demons begged
Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave
them permission. Then the demons came out
of the man and entered the swine, and the
herd rushed down the steep bank into the
lake and was drowned. When the swineherds
saw what had happened, they ran off and
told it in the city and in the country. Then
people came out to see what had happened,
and when they came to Jesus, they found
the man from whom the demons had gone
sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in
his right mind. And they were afraid. Those
who had seen it told them how the one
who had been possessed by demons had
been healed. Then all the people of the
surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked
Jesus to leave them; for they were seized
with great fear. So he got into the boat and
returned. The man from whom the demons
had gone begged that he might be with him;
but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to
your home, and declare how much God has
done for you." So he went away, proclaiming
throughout the city how much Jesus had
done for him.

POST COMMUNION

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.