

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and
govern both our hearts and
bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works of
your commandments;
that through your most mighty
protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
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 Genesis 15:1-6

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the LORD came to Abram
in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I
am your shield; your reward shall be very
great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD,
what will you give me, for I continue
childless, and the heir of my house is
Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said,
"You have given me no offspring, and
so a slave born in my house is to be my
heir." But the word of the LORD came
to him, "This man shall not be your heir;
no one but your very own issue shall be
your heir." The Lord brought Abraham
outside and said, "Look toward heaven
and count the stars, if you are able
to count them." Then he said to him,
"So shall your descendants be." And
he believed the LORD; and the LORD
reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Or Isaiah 1:1. 10-20

PSALM Psalm 33:12-end [or 33:12-21]

R *The earth is full of the loving-kindness
of the Lord.*

Happy the nation whose God is the Lord
and the people he has chosen for his
own.

The Lord looks down from heaven
and beholds all the children of earth. **R**

From where he sits enthroned he turns
his gaze
on all who dwell on the earth.
He fashions all the hearts of them
and understands all their works. **R**

No king is saved by the might of his
host;

no warrior delivered by his great
strength.

A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
for all its strength it cannot save. **R**

Behold, the eye of the Lord
is upon those who fear him,
on those who wait in hope for his
steadfast love,
To deliver their soul from death
and to feed them in time of famine. **R**

Our soul waits longingly for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
Indeed, our heart rejoices in him;
in his holy name have we put our trust.
Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be
upon us,
as we have set our hope on you. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3. 8-16

*A reading from the letter to the
Hebrews.*

Faith is the assurance of things hoped
for, the conviction of things not seen.
Indeed, by faith our ancestors received
approval. By faith we understand that
the worlds were prepared by the word
of God, so that what is seen was made
from things that are not visible. By faith
Abraham obeyed when he was called to
set out for a place that he was to receive
as an inheritance; and he set out, not
knowing where he was going. By faith he
stayed for a time in the land he had been
promised, as in a foreign land, living in
tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were
heirs with him of the same promise. For
he looked forward to the city that has
foundations, whose architect and builder
is God. By faith he received power of
procreation, even though he was too
old – and Sarah herself was barren –
because he considered him faithful
who had promised. Therefore from one
person, and this one as good as dead,
descendants were born, "as many as the
stars of heaven and as the innumerable
grains of sand by the seashore." All
of these died in faith without having
received the promises, but from a
distance they saw and greeted them.
They confessed that they were strangers
and foreigners on the earth, for people
who speak in this way make it clear
that they are seeking a homeland. If
they had been thinking of the land that

they had left behind, they would have
had opportunity to return. But as it is,
they desire a better country, that is,
a heavenly one. Therefore God is not
ashamed to be called their God; indeed,
he has prepared a city for them.

GOSPEL Luke 12:32-40

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be
afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's
good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Sell your possessions, and give alms.
Make purses for yourselves that do not
wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven,
where no thief comes near and no moth
destroys. For where your treasure is,
there your heart will be also. Be dressed
for action and have your lamps lit; be like
those who are waiting for their master
to return from the wedding banquet, so
that they may open the door for him as
soon as he comes and knocks. Blessed
are those slaves whom the master finds
alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he
will fasten his belt and have them sit
down to eat, and he will come and serve
them. If he comes during the middle of
the night, or near dawn, and finds them
so, blessed are those slaves. But know
this: if the owner of the house had known
at what hour the thief was coming, he
would not have let his house be broken
into. You also must be ready, for the
Son of Man is coming at an unexpected
hour."

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your
word be deaf to clamour and
dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the tokens
of your love shine with the
light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed
with your body be refreshed
with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

