

## COLLECT

God our redeemer,  
who prepared the Blessed Virgin  
Mary  
to be the mother of your Son:  
grant that, as she looked for his  
coming as our saviour,  
so we may be ready to greet him  
when he comes again as our judge;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

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

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,  
"Ask a sign of the LORD your  
God; let it be deep as Sheol or  
high as heaven." But Ahaz said,  
"I will not ask, and I will not put  
the LORD to the test." Then  
Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house  
of David! Is it too little for you  
to weary mortals, that you weary  
my God also? Therefore the Lord  
himself will give you a sign. Look,  
the young woman is with child and  
shall bear a son, and shall name  
him Immanuel. He shall eat curds  
and honey by the time he knows  
how to refuse the evil and choose  
the good. For before the child  
knows how to refuse the evil and  
choose the good, the land before  
whose two kings you are in dread  
will be deserted."

## PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20

**R** Turn us again, O God; show the  
light of your countenance,  
and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,  
you that led Joseph like a flock;  
Shine forth, you that are  
enthroned upon the cherubim,  
before Ephraim, Benjamin and  
Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength  
and come to our salvation. **R**  
O Lord God of hosts,  
how long will you be angry at your  
people's prayer?  
You feed them with the bread of  
tears;  
you give them abundance of tears  
to drink.  
You have made us the derision of  
our neighbours  
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**  
Let your hand be upon the man at  
your right hand,  
the son of man you made so  
strong for yourself.  
And so will we not go back from  
you;  
give us life, and we shall call upon  
your name. **R**

## SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

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

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,  
called to be an apostle, set apart  
for the gospel of God, which he  
promised beforehand through his  
prophets in the holy scriptures,  
the gospel concerning his Son,  
who was descended from David  
according to the flesh and was  
declared to be Son of God with  
power according to the spirit  
of holiness by resurrection from  
the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Through Christ we have received  
grace and apostleship to bring  
about the obedience of faith  
among all the Gentiles for the sake  
of his name, including yourselves  
who are called to belong to Jesus  
Christ, To all God's beloved in  
Rome, who are called to be saints:  
Grace to you and peace from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus  
Christ.

## GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-end

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus  
Christ according to Matthew.*  
The birth of Jesus the Messiah  
took place in this way. When his  
mother Mary had been engaged  
to Joseph, but before they lived  
together, she was found to be  
with child from the Holy Spirit. Her  
husband Joseph, being a righteous  
man and unwilling to expose her  
to public disgrace, planned to  
dismiss her quietly. But just when  
he had resolved to do this, an  
angel of the Lord appeared to  
him in a dream and said, "Joseph,  
son of David, do not be afraid to  
take Mary as your wife, for the  
child conceived in her is from the  
Holy Spirit. She will bear a son,  
and you are to name him Jesus,  
for he will save his people from  
their sins." All this took place to  
fulfil what had been spoken by the  
Lord through the prophet: "Look,  
the virgin shall conceive and bear  
a son, and they shall name him  
Emmanuel," which means, "God  
is with us." When Joseph awoke  
from sleep, he did as the angel of  
the Lord commanded him; he took  
her as his wife, but had no marital  
relations with her until she had  
borne a son; and he named him  
Jesus.

## POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised  
saviour:  
fill us your servants with your  
grace,  
that in all things we may embrace  
your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your  
salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

