

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose children suffered at the
hands of Herod,
though they had done no wrong:
by the suffering of your Son
and by the innocence of our lives
frustrate all evil designs
and establish your reign of
justice and peace;
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

Jeremiah 31:15-17

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the LORD: A voice
is heard in Ramah, lamentation
and bitter weeping. Rachel is
weeping for her children; she
refuses to be comforted for her
children, because they are no
more. Thus says the LORD: Keep
your voice from weeping, and
your eyes from tears; for there is
a reward for your work, says the
LORD: they shall come back from
the land of the enemy; there is
hope for your future, says the
LORD: your children shall come
back to their own country.

PSALM Psalm 124

R *Our help is in the name of
the Lord.*

If the Lord himself had not been
on our side,
now may Israel say;
If the Lord had not been on our
side,
when enemies rose up against
us; **R**

Then would they have swallowed
us alive

when their anger burned against
us;
Then would the waters have
overwhelmed us
and the torrent gone over our
soul;
over our soul would have swept
the raging waters. **R**

But blessed be the Lord
who has not given us over to be
a prey for their teeth.
Our soul has escaped
as a bird from the snare of the
fowler;
the snare is broken and we are
delivered. **R**

Our help is in the name of the
Lord,
who has made heaven and
earth. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:26-29

*A reading from the first letter of
Paul to the Corinthians.*

Consider your own call, brothers
and sisters: not many of you
were wise by human standards,
not many were powerful, not
many were of noble birth. But
God chose what is foolish in the
world to shame the wise; God
chose what is weak in the world
to shame the strong; God chose
what is low and despised in the
world, things that are not, to
reduce to nothing things that
are, so that no one might boast
in the presence of God.

GOSPEL Matthew 2:13-18

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

After the wise men had left, an
angel of the Lord appeared to
Joseph in a dream and said,

"Get up, take the child and his
mother, and flee to Egypt, and
remain there until I tell you; for
Herod is about to search for
the child, to destroy him." Then
Joseph got up, took the child
and his mother by night, and
went to Egypt, and remained
there until the death of Herod.
This was to fulfil what had been
spoken by the Lord through the
prophet, "Out of Egypt I have
called my son". When Herod saw
that he had been tricked by the
wise men, he was infuriated, and
he sent and killed all the children
in and around Bethlehem who
were two years old or under,
according to the time that he
had learned from the wise men.
Then was fulfilled what had been
spoken through the prophet
Jeremiah: "A voice was heard
in Ramah, wailing and loud
lamentation, Rachel weeping for
her children; she refused to be
consoled, because they are no
more."

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
in your humility you have
stooped to share our human
life
with the most defenceless of
your children:
may we who have received these
gifts of your passion
rejoice in celebrating the witness
of the holy innocents
to the purity of your sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross;
for you are alive and reign, now
and for ever.

