

## COLLECT

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in the  
same;  
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 **Wisdom of Solomon 12:13. 16-19**  
A reading from the book of Wisdom.

There is not any god besides you, Lord,  
whose care is for all people, to whom you  
should prove that you have not judged  
unjustly; for your strength is the source  
of righteousness, and your sovereignty  
over all causes you to spare all. For you  
show your strength when people doubt  
the completeness of your power, and you  
rebuke any insolence among those who  
know it. Although you are sovereign in  
strength, you judge with mildness, and  
with great forbearance you govern us;  
for you have power to act whenever you  
choose. Through such works you have  
taught your people that the righteous  
must be kind, and you have filled your  
children with good hope, because you  
give repentance for sins.

## Or **Isaiah 44:6-8**

A reading from the book of the prophet  
Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel,  
and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts:  
I am the first and I am the last; besides  
me there is no god. Who is like me? Let  
them proclaim it, let them declare and set  
it forth before me. Who has announced  
from of old the things to come? Let them  
tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or  
be afraid; have I not told you from of old  
and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is  
there any god besides me? There is no  
other rock; I know not one.

## Or **Genesis 28:10-19a**

## PSALM Psalm 86:11-end

**R** You, Lord, are gracious and full of  
compassion.

Teach me your way, O Lord,  
and I will walk in your truth;  
knit my heart to you that I may fear your  
name.  
I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all  
my heart,

and glorify your name for evermore.  
For great is your love towards me;  
you have delivered me from the  
nethermost Pit. **R**

The arrogant rise up against me, O God,  
and a violent band seeks my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.  
But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of  
compassion,  
slow to anger and full of kindness and  
truth. **R**

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;  
give your strength to your servant;  
and save the child of your handmaid.  
Show me a sign of your favour,  
so that those who hate me may see it  
and be ashamed;  
because you, O Lord, have helped me  
and comforted me. **R**

## SECOND READING **Romans 8:12-25**

A reading from the letter of Paul to the  
Romans.

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors,  
not to the flesh, to live according to the  
flesh – for if you live according to the  
flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you  
put to death the deeds of the body, you  
will live. For all who are led by the Spirit  
of God are children of God. For you did  
not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back  
into fear, but you have received a spirit of  
adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”  
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with  
our spirit that we are children of God,  
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God  
and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact,  
we suffer with him so that we may also  
be glorified with him. I consider that the  
sufferings of this present time are not  
worth comparing with the glory about to  
be revealed to us. For the creation waits  
with eager longing for the revealing of  
the children of God; for the creation was  
subjected to futility, not of its own will  
but by the will of the one who subjected  
it, in hope that the creation itself will  
be set free from its bondage to decay  
and will obtain the freedom of the glory  
of the children of God. We know that  
the whole creation has been groaning  
in labour pains until now; and not only  
the creation, but we ourselves, who  
have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan  
inwardly while we wait for adoption, the  
redemption of our bodies. For in hope  
we were saved. Now hope that is seen  
is not hope. For who hopes for what is  
seen? But if we hope for what we do not  
see, we wait for it with patience.

## GOSPEL **Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43**

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

Jesus put before the crowd another  
parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be  
compared to someone who sowed good  
seed in his field; but while everybody  
was asleep, an enemy came and sowed  
weeds among the wheat, and then went  
away. So when the plants came up and  
bore grain then the weeds appeared as  
well. And the slaves of the householder  
came and said to him, ‘Master, did you  
not sow good seed in your field? Where,  
then, did these weeds come from?’ He  
answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The  
slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us  
to go and gather them?’ But he replied,  
‘No; for in gathering the weeds you  
would uproot the wheat along with them.  
Let both of them grow together until the  
harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the  
reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind  
them in bundles to be burned, but gather  
the wheat into my barn.’” Then Jesus left  
the crowds and went into the house. And  
his disciples approached him, saying,  
“Explain to us the parable of the weeds  
of the field.” He answered, “The one  
who sows the good seed is the Son of  
Man; the field is the world, and the good  
seed are the children of the kingdom;  
the weeds are the children of the evil  
one and the enemy who sowed them is  
the devil; the harvest is the end of the  
age, and the reapers are angels. Just as  
the weeds are collected and burned up  
with fire, so will it be at the end of the  
age. The Son of Man will send his angels,  
and they will collect out of his kingdom  
all causes of sin and all evildoers, and  
they will throw them into the furnace of  
fire, where there will be weeping and  
gnashing of teeth. Then the righteous will  
shine like the sun in the kingdom of their  
Father. Let anyone with ears listen!”

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and  
the source of life,  
ever giving himself that the world may  
live:  
may we so receive within ourselves the  
power of his death and passion  
that, in his saving cup, we may share his  
glory and be made perfect in his love;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.