

## COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,  
without whom nothing is strong,  
nothing is holy:  
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;  
that with you as our ruler and guide  
we may so pass through things temporal  
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;  
grant this, heavenly Father,  
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

### Zechariah 9:9-12

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

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!  
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!  
Lo, your king comes to you;  
triumphant and victorious is he,  
humble and riding on a donkey, on  
a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will  
cut off the chariot from Ephraim  
and the war horse from Jerusalem;  
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,  
and he shall command peace to the  
nations; his dominion shall be from  
sea to sea, and from the River to  
the ends of the earth. As for you  
also, because of the blood of my  
covenant with you, I will set your  
prisoners free from the waterless  
pit. Return to your stronghold, O  
prisoners of hope; today I declare  
that I will restore to you double.

## PSALM Psalm 145:8-15

**R** *Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.*

The Lord is gracious and merciful,  
long-suffering and of great goodness.  
The Lord is loving to everyone  
and his mercy is over all his  
creatures. **R**

All your works praise you, O Lord,  
and your faithful servants bless you.  
They tell of the glory of your  
kingdom  
and speak of your mighty power, **R**  
To make known to all peoples your  
mighty acts  
and the glorious splendour of your  
kingdom.  
Your kingdom is an everlasting  
kingdom;  
your dominion endures throughout  
all ages. **R**

The Lord is sure in all his words  
and faithful in all his deeds.  
The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up all those who are bowed  
down. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Romans 7:15-25a

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

I do not understand my own  
actions. For I do not do what I want,  
but I do the very thing I hate. Now  
if I do what I do not want, I agree  
that the law is good. But in fact it is  
no longer I that do it, but sin that  
dwells within me. For I know that  
nothing good dwells within me,  
that is, in my flesh. I can will what is  
right, but I cannot do it. For I do not  
do the good I want, but the evil I do  
not want is what I do. Now if I do  
what I do not want, it is no longer I  
that do it, but sin that dwells within  
me. So I find it to be a law that  
when I want to do what is good,  
evil lies close at hand. For I delight  
in the law of God in my inmost self,  
but I see in my members another  
law at war with the law of my mind,  
making me captive to the law of  
sin that dwells in my members.  
Wretched man that I am! Who will  
rescue me from this body of death?  
Thanks be to God through Jesus  
Christ our Lord!

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 11:16-19. 25-end

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

At that time Jesus said, "To what  
will I compare this generation?  
It is like children sitting in the  
market-places and calling to one  
another, 'We played the flute for  
you, and you did not dance; we  
wailed, and you did not mourn.'  
For John came neither eating nor  
drinking, and they say, 'He has  
a demon'; the Son of Man came  
eating and drinking, and they say,  
'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a  
friend of tax-collectors and sinners!'  
Yet wisdom is vindicated by her  
deeds. I thank you, Father, Lord  
of heaven and earth, because you  
have hidden these things from the  
wise and the intelligent and  
have revealed them to infants;  
yes, Father, for such was your  
gracious will. All things have been  
handed over to me by my Father;  
and no one knows the Son except  
the Father, and no one knows  
the Father except the Son and  
anyone to whom the Son chooses  
to reveal him. Come to me, all you  
that are weary and are carrying  
heavy burdens, and I will give you  
rest. Take my yoke upon you, and  
learn from me; for I am gentle and  
humble in heart, and you will find  
rest for your souls. For my yoke is  
easy, and my burden is light."

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,  
comfort of the afflicted and healer  
of the broken,  
you have fed us at the table of life  
and hope:  
teach us the ways of gentleness and  
peace,  
that all the world may acknowledge  
the kingdom of your Son Jesus  
Christ our Lord.

