

**COLLECT**

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our  
understanding:  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above  
all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
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.

**PSALM Psalm 86:11-end**

**R** *All nations you have made shall  
come and worship you, O Lord.*

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; **R**

For great is your steadfast love towards  
me,  
for you have delivered my soul from the  
depths of the grave.  
O God, the proud rise up against me  
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes. **R**

But you, Lord, are gracious and full of  
compassion,  
slow to anger and full of kindness and  
truth.

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

God of our pilgrimage,  
you have led us to the living water:  
refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

