

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 **Ezekiel 2:1-5**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God. When I saw this, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of someone speaking. He said to me: O mortal, stand up on your feet, and I will speak with you. And when he spoke to me, a spirit entered into me and set me on my feet; and I heard him speaking to me. He said to me, Mortal, I am sending you to the people of Israel, to a nation of rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have transgressed against me to this very day. The descendants are impudent and stubborn. I am sending you to them, and you shall say to them, "Thus says the Lord GOD." Whether they hear or refuse to hear (for they are a rebellious house), they shall know that there has been a prophet among them.

Or **2 Samuel 5:1-5. 9-10**

PSALM Psalm 123

R *Our eyes look to the Lord our God,
until he shows us his mercy.*

To you I lift up my eyes,
to you enthroned in the heavens.
As the eyes of servants look to the
hand of their masters,

and the eyes of a maid to the hand
of her mistress,
So our eyes look to the Lord our
God,
until he show us his mercy. **R**

Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have
mercy,
for we have had more than enough
of contempt,
Too much of the scorn of the
indolent rich,
and of the derision of the proud. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

I know a person in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows. And I know that such a person – whether in the body or out of the body I do not know; God knows – was caught up into Paradise and heard things that are not to be told, that no mortal is permitted to repeat. On behalf of such a one I will boast, but on my own behalf I will not boast, except of my weaknesses. But if I wish to boast, I will not be a fool, for I will be speaking the truth. But I refrain from it, so that no one may think better of me than what is seen in me or heard from me, even considering the exceptional character of the revelations. Therefore, to keep me from being too elated, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I appealed to the Lord about this, that it would leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities for the sake of Christ; for whenever I am weak, then I am strong.

GOSPEL Mark 6:1-13

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

Jesus came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, "Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house." And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, "Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

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.

Additional Text and Prayers

Call to worship

God says,
you are never too young, never too old,
to be part of my work.
Come near,
all who are weak,
all who are afraid,
all who know their need of me.
**Lord, meet us where we are,
meet us in our need.
We give our lives to you.**

Blessing

The love of the Lord Jesus
draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus
strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing ...

Dismissal

Send us out, Lord,
**into the places that we know,
bearing the good news of your risen life.**
Send us out, Lord,
**into the less familiar places:
the unknown and less trodden paths.**
Give us strength there
to speak your word,
to live your truth
and to make known the story
of a people and a world made new.
Amen.

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 **Amos 7:7-15**

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

This is what the Lord God showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said, "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel; I will never again pass them by; the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword." Then Amaziah the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said, 'Jeroboam shall die by the sword, and Israel must go into exile away from his land.'" And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom." Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

Or **2 Samuel 6:1-5. 12b-19**

PSALM Psalm 85:8-end

R Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

I will listen to what the Lord God is saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

Truly, his salvation is very near to those
who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed
each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down from
heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his
feet. **R**

SECOND READING Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in Christ, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance towards redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

GOSPEL Mark 6:14-29

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

King Herod heard of the healings and other miracles, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying,

"John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. When Herodias' daughter came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the Baptist." Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptizer on a platter." The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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.

Call to worship

**God calls us together to worship.
God calls us to hear God's word.
God calls us to journey with Jesus.
God calls us to work together to bring
about the purposes of God in the world.**

Great God of time and eternity,
who inspired the prophets with your word
and gave them the will to speak to your people,
we gather in your name
and seek your blessing
on the mission of this community.
May we listen and resolve, celebrate and sing,
in the knowledge of your love and of your
gracious calling.
Make us prophets to discern your will,
disciples to understand it
and apostles to share it,
inspired by your Spirit.
Amen.

Introduction to confession

John the Baptist proclaimed,
'Repent for the kingdom of heaven
has come near.'

Matthew 3.2

Let us turn to the Lord in penitence and faith
and humbly confess our sin.

Kyrie Confession

Lord Jesus, you stand among us,
and we do not recognize you.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, we are not worthy to untie the
thong of your sandals.
Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you are the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

An absolution is given.

Loving God, you have come close to us
and called us as your own.
Help us to remember in the days ahead
that your love stays with us always
and never ends.
Inspire our hearts and minds
to share your gifts with others
as we go out into the world every day.
In Jesus' name we pray.
Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,
whose Son restored Mary Magdalene
to health of mind and body
and called her to be a witness to his resurrection:
forgive our sins and heal us by your grace,
that we may serve you in the power of his risen life;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Old Testament Reading**Song of Solomon 3.1-4**

Upon my bed at night

I sought him whom my soul loves;
I sought him, but found him not;
I called him, but he gave no answer.
² 'I will rise now and go about the city,
in the streets and in the squares;
I will seek him whom my soul loves.'
I sought him, but found him not.

³ The sentinels found me,
as they went about in the city.
'Have you seen him whom my soul loves?'
⁴ Scarcely had I passed them,
when I found him whom my soul loves.
I held him, and would not let him go
until I brought him into my mother's house,
and into the chamber of her that conceived
me.

New Testament Reading**2 Corinthians 5.14-17**

¹⁴ For the love of Christ urges us on, because we
are convinced that one has died for all;
therefore all have died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, so
that those who live might live no longer for
themselves, but for him who died and was
raised for them.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one
from a human point of view; even though we
once knew Christ from a human point of view,
we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if

anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see, everything
has become new!

Holy Gospel**John 20.1-2,11-18**

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still
dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw
that the stone had been removed from the tomb.
² So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other
disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to
them, 'They have taken the Lord out of the tomb,
and we do not know where they have laid him.'
¹¹ But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she
wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹² and
she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body
of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the
other at the feet. ¹³ They said to her, 'Woman, why
are you weeping?' She said to them, 'They have
taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they
have laid him.'
¹⁴ When she had said this, she turned
round and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not
know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, 'Woman,
why are you weeping? For whom are you looking?'
Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him,
'Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you
have laid him, and I will take him away.'
¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Mary!' She turned and said to him in
Hebrew, 'Rabbouni!' (which means Teacher). ¹⁷
Jesus said to her, 'Do not hold on to me, because I
have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my
brothers and say to them, "I am ascending to my
Father and your Father, to my God and your God."
¹⁸ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the
disciples, 'I have seen the Lord'; and she told them
that he had said these things to her.

Post-Communion Prayer

God of life and love,
whose risen Son called Mary Magdalene by name
and sent her to tell of his resurrection to his
apostles:
in your mercy, help us,
who have been united with him in this eucharist,
to proclaim the good news that he is alive and
reigns, now and for ever. Amen

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and
govern both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the
works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty
protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and
soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **Jeremiah 23:1-6**

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

Or **2 Samuel 7:1-14a**

PSALM Psalm 23

R *The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways
for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death,
I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort
me. **R**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble
me;
you have anointed my head with oil,
and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall
follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:11-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

Remember that at one time you Gentiles by birth, called "the uncircumcision" by those who are called "the circumcision" – a physical circumcision made in the flesh by human hands – remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.

In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

GOSPEL Mark 6:30-34. 53-end

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

The apostles returned from their mission. They gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the market-places, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your
word be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the
tokens of your love shine with the
light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been
fed with your body be refreshed with
the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

COLLECT

Almighty God,
 who sent your Holy Spirit
 to be the life and light of your Church:
 open our hearts to the riches of your
 grace,
 that we may bring forth the fruit of
 the Spirit
 in love and joy 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

Either **2 Kings 4:42-end**

A reading from the second book of Kings.

A man came bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, 'They shall eat and have some left.'" He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Or **2 Samuel 11:1-15**

PSALM Psalm 145:10-19

R *You open wide your hand, O Lord, and satisfy our needs.*

All your works praise you, O Lord,
 and your faithful servants bless you. **R**

They make known the glory of your
 kingdom
 and speak of your power;
 That the peoples may know of your
 power
 and the glorious splendour of your
 kingdom. **R**

Your kingdom is an everlasting
 kingdom;
 your dominion endures throughout all
 ages.

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

The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord,
 and you give them their food in due
 season.

You open wide your hand
 and satisfy the needs of every living
 creature. **R**

The Lord is righteous in all his ways
 and loving in all his works.

The Lord is near to those who call
 upon him,
 to all who call upon him faithfully. **R**

SECOND READING

Ephesians 3:14-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Ephesians.

I bow my knees before the Father,
 from whom every family in heaven
 and on earth takes its name. I pray
 that, according to the riches of his
 glory, he may grant that you may be
 strengthened in your inner being with
 power through his Spirit, and that
 Christ may dwell in your hearts through
 faith, as you are being rooted and
 grounded in love. I pray that you may
 have the power to comprehend, with
 all the saints, what is the breadth and
 length and height and depth, and to
 know the love of Christ that surpasses
 knowledge, so that you may be filled
 with all the fullness of God. Now to
 him who by the power at work within
 us is able to accomplish abundantly far
 more than all we can ask or imagine,
 to him be glory in the church and in
 Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever
 and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL John 6:1-21

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

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages

would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Jesus, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

POST COMMUNION

Holy Father,
 who gathered us here around the
 table of your Son
 to share this meal with the whole
 household of God:
 in that new world where you reveal
 the fullness of your peace,
 gather people of every race and
 language to share in the eternal
 banquet of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Additional Text and Prayers

Dismissal

Call to worship

Loving God, you fed your people in the past:

feed us now.

We come to hear your living word.

Loving God, you fed your people in the desert:

feed us now.

We come searching for truth.

Loving God, you fed your people on the hillside:

feed us now.

We come for sustenance for life.

Loving God, you fed your people in the past:

feed us now.

As the multitude came seeking Jesus,
we, too, have gathered here today.

As the people were fed,

we, too, have received nourishment.

As Jesus calmed the fears of his disciples,

we, too, can face this day with confidence that
God is with us.

Fed by Christ, empowered by the Spirit, loved
by God, go in assurance.

Go in peace.

Amen.

Confession

Forgive us, when we follow the crowd
because we are afraid to stand out
and follow our conscience.

Lord have mercy: **Lord have mercy.**

Forgive us, when we hide behind the crowd
because we are afraid to show our face
and speak up for what is right.

Christ have mercy: **Christ have mercy.**

Forgive us, when we avoid the crowd
because we are afraid to join in their protest
and the cost that might involve

Lord have mercy: **Lord have mercy.**

Forgive us, when we swim in the crowd
because we are afraid to show our hand
and share what we have with those in need.

Silence is kept.

Absolution

Be no more afraid; and rest assured of the
forgiveness of the one who gave of himself
and taught us how to share our bread.

Amen.

Blessing

May God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is the source of all goodness and growth,
pour his blessing upon all things created,

and upon you his children,
that you may use his gifts to his glory

and the welfare of all peoples;

and the blessing...