

## COLLECT

Most merciful God,  
 who by the death and resurrection  
 of your Son Jesus Christ  
 delivered and saved the world:  
 grant that by faith in him who  
 suffered on the cross  
 we may triumph in the power of  
 his victory;  
 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 Isaiah 43:16-21

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

Thus says the LORD, who makes  
 a way in the sea, a path in the  
 mighty waters, who brings out  
 chariot and horse, army and  
 warrior; they lie down, they  
 cannot rise, they are extinguished,  
 quenched like a wick: Do not  
 remember the former things, or  
 consider the things of old. I am  
 about to do a new thing; now it  
 springs forth, do you not perceive  
 it? I will make a way in the  
 wilderness and rivers in the desert.  
 The wild animals will honour me,  
 the jackals and the ostriches; for I  
 give water in the wilderness, rivers  
 in the desert, to give drink to my  
 chosen people, the people whom  
 I formed for myself so that they  
 might declare my praise.

## PSALM Psalm 126

**R** *The Lord has done great things  
 for us  
 [and we are glad indeed].*

When the Lord restored the  
 fortunes of Zion,  
 then were we like those who dream.  
 Then was our mouth filled with  
 laughter,  
 and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**  
 Then they said among the nations,  
 "The Lord has done great things  
 for them."

The Lord has done great things  
 for us,  
 and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,  
 like the watercourses of the  
 Negev.

Those who sowed with tears  
 will reap with songs of joy.  
 Those who go out weeping,  
 carrying the seed,  
 will come again with joy,  
 shouldering their sheaves. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Philippians 3:4b-14

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

If anyone else has reason to be  
 confident in the flesh, I have  
 more: circumcised on the eighth  
 day, a member of the people of  
 Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,  
 a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as  
 to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal,  
 a persecutor of the church; as  
 to righteousness under the law,  
 blameless. Yet whatever gains I  
 had, these I have come to regard  
 as loss because of Christ. More  
 than that, I regard everything as  
 loss because of the surpassing  
 value of knowing Christ Jesus my  
 Lord. For his sake I have suffered  
 the loss of all things, and I regard  
 them as rubbish, in order that I  
 may gain Christ and be found in  
 him, not having a righteousness  
 of my own that comes from the  
 law, but one that comes through  
 faith in Christ, the righteousness  
 from God based on faith. I want to  
 know Christ and the power of his  
 resurrection and the sharing of his  
 sufferings by becoming like him in  
 his death, if somehow I may attain  
 the resurrection from the dead.  
 Not that I have already obtained  
 this or have already reached the  
 goal; but I press on to make it my  
 own, because Christ Jesus has  
 made me his own. Beloved, I do  
 not consider that I have made it

my own; but this one thing I do:  
 forgetting what lies behind and  
 straining forward to what lies  
 ahead, I press on towards the goal  
 for the prize of the heavenly call  
 of God in Christ Jesus.

## GOSPEL John 12:1-8

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

Six days before the Passover  
 Jesus came to Bethany, the home  
 of Lazarus, whom he had raised  
 from the dead. There they gave  
 a dinner for him. Martha served,  
 and Lazarus was one of those at  
 the table with him. Mary took a  
 pound of costly perfume made of  
 pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet,  
 and wiped them with her hair. The  
 house was filled with the fragrance  
 of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot,  
 one of his disciples (the one who  
 was about to betray him), said,  
 "Why was this perfume not sold  
 for three hundred denarii and the  
 money given to the poor?" (He  
 said this not because he cared  
 about the poor, but because he  
 was a thief; he kept the common  
 purse and used to steal what was  
 put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her  
 alone. She bought it so that she  
 might keep it for the day of my  
 burial. You always have the poor  
 with you, but you do not always  
 have me."

## POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,  
 you have taught us  
 that what we do for the least of  
 our brothers and sisters  
 we do also for you:  
 give us the will to be the servant  
 of others  
 as you were the servant of all,  
 and gave up your life and died for  
 us,  
 but are alive and reign, now and  
 for ever.