

COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully
to hear the prayers of your people
who call upon you;
and grant that they may both
perceive and know what things
they ought to do,
and also may have grace and power
faithfully to fulfil them;
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 **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The servant of the Lord said: The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he awakens – awakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord GOD helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the Lord GOD who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

Or **Proverbs 1:20-33**

PSALM Psalm 116:1-8

R *I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.*

I love the Lord,
because he has heard the voice of
my supplication,
because he has inclined his ear to me
whenever I called upon him.
The cords