

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who through your only-begotten Son
Jesus Christ
have overcome death and opened to us
the gate of everlasting life:
grant that, as by your grace going
before us you put into our minds
good desires,
so by your continual help
we may bring them to good effect;
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the First or Second reading.

Either Acts 11:1-18

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And

I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Or Baruch 3:9-15. 32 – 4:4 or Genesis 22:1-18

PSALM Psalm 148

R *Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.*

Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his;

praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars. **R**

Praise him, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord;
for he commanded and they were
created.

He made them stand fast for ever and
ever;

he gave them a law which shall not pass
away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars;
Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and winged birds. **R**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
Young men and maidens,
old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,
for his name only is exalted,
his splendour is over earth and heaven. **R**

He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are
near him.

Alleluia! **R**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-6

A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new
earth; for the first heaven and the first
earth had passed away, and the sea was

no more. And I saw the holy city, the
new Jerusalem, coming down out of
heaven from God, prepared as a bride
adorned for her husband. And I heard
a loud voice from the throne saying,
"See, the home of God is among
mortals. He will dwell with them; they
will be his peoples, and God himself will
be with them; he will wipe every tear
from their eyes. Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no
more, for the first things have passed
away." And the one who was seated on
the throne said, "See, I am making all
things new." Also he said, "Write this,
for these words are trustworthy and
true." Then he said to me, "It is done!
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the
beginning and the end. To the thirsty I
will give water as a gift from the spring
of the water of life."

GOSPEL John 13:31-35

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

During the supper, when Judas had
gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of
Man has been glorified, and God has
been glorified in him. If God has been
glorified in him, God will also glorify
him in himself and will glorify him at
once. Little children, I am with you only
a little longer. You will look for me; and
as I said to the Jews so now I say to
you, 'Where I am going, you cannot
come.' I give you a new commandment,
that you love one another. Just as I have
loved you, you also should love one
another. By this everyone will know that
you are my disciples, if you have love
for one another."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the
truth, and the life:
grant us to walk in his way,
to rejoice in his truth,
and to share his risen life;
who is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.