

COLLECT

God of compassion,
 whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
 shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
 and on the cross drew the whole human
 family to himself:
 strengthen us in our daily living
 that in joy and in sorrow
 we may know the power of your presence to
 bind together and to heal;
 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 Exodus 2:1-10

A reading from the book of Exodus.
 A man from the house of Levi went and
 married a Levite woman. The woman
 conceived and bore a son; and when she
 saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for
 three months. When she could hide him no
 longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and
 plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put
 the child in it and placed it among the reeds
 on the bank of the river. His sister stood at
 a distance, to see what would happen to
 him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down
 to bathe at the river, while her attendants
 walked beside the river. She saw the basket
 among the reeds and sent her maid to
 bring it. When she opened it, she saw the
 child. He was crying, and she took pity on
 him, "This must be one of the Hebrews'
 children," she said. Then his sister said to
 Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get you
 a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse
 the child for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said
 to her, "Yes." So the girl went and called the
 child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to
 her, "Take this child and nurse it for me, and
 I will give you your wages." So the woman
 took the child and nursed it. When the child
 grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's
 daughter, and she took him as her son. She
 named him Moses, "because," she said, "I
 drew him out of the water."

Or 1 Samuel 1:20-end

A reading from the first book of Samuel.
 Hannah conceived and bore a son. She
 named him Samuel, for she said, "I have
 asked him of the LORD." The man Elkanah
 and all his household went up to offer to
 the LORD the yearly sacrifice, and to pay
 his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she
 said to her husband, "As soon as the child is
 weaned, I will bring him, that he may appear
 in the presence of the LORD, and remain
 there for ever; I will offer him as a nazirite
 for all time." Her husband Elkanah said to
 her, "Do what seems best to you, wait until
 you have weaned him; only – may the LORD
 establish his word." So the woman remained
 and nursed her son, until she weaned him.
 When she had weaned him, she took him
 up with her, along with a three-year-old bull,
 an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine. She
 brought him to the house of the LORD at

Shiloh; and the child was young. Then they
 slaughtered the bull, and they brought the
 child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As
 you live, my lord, I am the woman who was
 standing here in your presence, praying to
 the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the
 LORD has granted me the petition that I
 made to him. Therefore I have lent him to
 the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to
 the LORD." She left him there for the LORD.

PSALM

Either Psalm 34:11-20

R [Come, children, and listen to me:]
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Come, children, and listen to me;
 I will teach you the fear of the Lord.
 Who among you loves life
 and desires long life to enjoy prosperity? **R**

Keep your tongue from evil-speaking
 and your lips from lying words.
 Turn from evil and do good;
 seek peace and pursue it. **R**

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,
 and his ears are open to their cry.
 The face of the Lord is against those who
 do evil,
 to root out the remembrance of them from
 the earth. **R**

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them
 and delivers them from all their troubles.
 The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
 and will save those whose spirits are crushed. **R**

Many are the troubles of the righteous,
 but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.
 He will keep safe all his bones;
 not one of them shall be broken. **R**

Or Psalm 127:1-4

R *It is the Lord who builds the house.*

Unless the Lord builds the house,
 their labour is in vain who build it.
 Unless the Lord watches over the city,
 in vain the guard keeps vigil. **R**

It is in vain that you rise so early
 and go to bed so late;
 vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,
 for he gives to his beloved sleep.
 Children are a heritage from the Lord,
 and the fruit of the womb is a gift. **R**

SECOND READING

Either 2 Corinthians 1:3-7

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

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord
 Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the
 God of all consolation, who consoles us in
 all our affliction, so that we may be able to
 console those who are in any affliction with
 the consolation with which we ourselves are
 consoled by God. For just as the sufferings
 of Christ are abundant for us, so also our

consolation is abundant through Christ. If we
 are being afflicted, it is for your consolation
 and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is
 for your consolation, which you experience
 when you patiently endure the same
 sufferings that we are also suffering. Our
 hope for you is unshaken; for we know that
 as you share in our sufferings, so also you
 share in our consolation.

Or Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,
 clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,
 humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with
 one another and, if anyone has a complaint
 against another, forgive each other; just
 as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also
 must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves
 with love, which binds everything together
 in perfect harmony. And let the peace of
 Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed
 you were called in the one body. And be
 thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you
 richly; teach and admonish one another in
 all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts
 sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs
 to God. And whatever you do, in word or
 deed, do everything in the name of the
 Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father
 through him.

GOSPEL

Either Luke 2:33-35

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

The child's father and mother were amazed
 at what was being said about Jesus. Then
 Simeon blessed them and said to his mother
 Mary, "This child is destined for the falling
 and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a
 sign that will be opposed so that the inner
 thoughts of many will be revealed – and a
 sword will pierce your own soul too."

Or John 19:25b-27

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

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his
 mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the
 wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When
 Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom
 he loved standing beside her, he said to his
 mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he
 said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."
 And from that hour the disciple took her into
 his own home.

POST COMMUNION

Loving God,
 as a mother feeds her children at the breast
 you feed us in this sacrament
 with the food and drink of eternal life:
 help us who have tasted your goodness
 to grow in grace within the household of faith;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

