

## COLLECT

God, the giver of life,  
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your  
Church:  
by the Spirit's gift equip us to live the  
gospel of Christ and make us eager to  
do your will,  
that we may share with the whole  
creation the joys of eternal life;  
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 45:1-7**

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

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to  
Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped  
to subdue nations before him and strip  
kings of their robes, to open doors  
before him – and the gates shall not be  
closed: I will go before you and level  
the mountains, I will break in pieces the  
doors of bronze and cut through the  
bars of iron, I will give you the treasures  
of darkness and riches hidden in secret  
places, so that you may know that it is  
I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call  
you by your name. For the sake of my  
servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I  
call you by your name, I surname you,  
though you do not know me. I am the  
LORD, and there is no other; besides  
me there is no god. I arm you, though  
you do not know me, so that they may  
know, from the rising of the sun and  
from the west, that there is no one  
besides me; I am the LORD, and there  
is no other. I form light and create  
darkness, I make weal and create woe;  
I the LORD do all these things

**Or Exodus 33:12-end**

## PSALM Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

**R** Ascribe to the Lord honour and  
power.

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.  
Sing to the Lord and bless his name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation  
from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples. **R**  
For great is the Lord and greatly to be  
praised;

he is more to be feared than all gods.  
As for all the gods of the nations, they  
are but idols;  
but it is the Lord who made the  
heavens.  
O the majesty and magnificence of his  
presence!  
O the power and the splendour of his  
sanctuary! **R**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the  
peoples;  
ascribe to the Lord honour and power.  
Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to  
his name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.  
Worship the Lord in the beauty of  
holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him. **R**

[Tell it out among the nations: "The  
Lord is king!  
he has made the world so firm that it  
cannot be moved  
he will judge the peoples with equity."  
Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth  
be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is  
therein. **R**

Then shall all the trees of the wood  
shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with  
righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth. **R]**

## SECOND READING

**1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*A reading from the first letter of Paul to  
the Thessalonians.*

From Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To  
the church of the Thessalonians in God  
the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace. We always  
give thanks to God for all of you and  
mention you in our prayers, constantly  
remembering before our God and  
Father your work of faith and labour  
of love and steadfastness of hope in  
our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know,  
brothers and sisters beloved by God,  
that he has chosen you, because our  
message of the gospel came to you not  
in word only, but also in power and in  
the Holy Spirit and with full conviction;  
just as you know what kind of persons  
we proved to be among you for your  
sake. And you became imitators of

us and of the Lord, for in spite of  
persecution you received the word  
with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so  
that you became an example to all the  
believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.  
For the word of the Lord has sounded  
forth from you not only in Macedonia  
and Achaia, but in every place your faith  
in God has become known, so that we  
have no need to speak about it. For the  
people of those regions report about us  
what kind of welcome we had among  
you, and how you turned to God from  
idols, to serve a living and true God,  
and to wait for his Son from heaven,  
whom he raised from the dead – Jesus,  
who rescues us from the wrath that is  
coming.

## GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22

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

When the chief priests and Pharisees  
had heard the parables, they realised  
that Jesus was speaking about them.  
Then the Pharisees went and plotted to  
entrap him in what he said. So they sent  
their disciples to him, along with the  
Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know  
that you are sincere, and teach the way  
of God in accordance with truth, and  
show deference to no one; for you do  
not regard people with partiality. Tell  
us, then, what you think. Is it lawful  
to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?"  
But Jesus, aware of their malice, said,  
"Why are you putting me to the test,  
you hypocrites? Show me the coin  
used for the tax." And they brought  
him a denarius. Then he said to them,  
"Whose head is this, and whose title?"  
They answered, "The emperor's." Then  
he said to them, "Give therefore to  
the emperor the things that are the  
emperor's, and to God the things that  
are God's." When they heard this, they  
were amazed; and they left him and  
went away.

## POST COMMUNION

God our Father,  
whose Son, the light unfailing,  
has come from heaven to deliver the  
world from the darkness of ignorance:  
let these holy mysteries open the eyes  
of our understanding  
that we may know the way of life,  
and walk in it without stumbling;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.