

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify
and govern both our hearts and
bodies

in the ways of your laws and the
works of your commandments;
that through your most mighty
protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and
soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The word of the LORD came to
Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid,
Abram, I am your shield; your reward
shall be very great." But Abram said,
"O Lord GOD, what will you give me,
for I continue childless, and the heir
of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"
And Abram said, "You have given me
no offspring, and so a slave born in
my house is to be my heir." But the
word of the LORD came to him, "This
man shall not be your heir; no one
but your very own issue shall be your
heir." The Lord brought Abraham
outside and said, "Look toward
heaven and count the stars, if you are
able to count them." Then he said
to him, "So shall your descendants
be." And he believed the LORD;
and the LORD reckoned it to him as
righteousness.

PSALM Psalm 33:12-end

R *Happy the people the Lord has
chosen as his own!*

Happy is the nation whose God is the
Lord!

happy the people he has chosen to
be his own!

The Lord looks down from heaven,
and beholds all the people in the
world.

From where he sits enthroned he
turns his gaze

on all who dwell on the earth. **R**

He fashions all the hearts of them
and understands all their works.

There is no king that can be saved by
a mighty army;

the strong are not delivered by great
strength.

The horse is a vain hope for
deliverance;
for all its strength it cannot save. **R**

Behold, the eye of the Lord
is upon those who fear him,
on those who wait upon his love,
To pluck their lives from death,
and to feed them in time of famine. **R**

Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
Indeed, our heart rejoices in him,
for in his holy name we put our trust.
Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be
upon us,
as we have put our trust in you. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 11:1-3. 8-16

*A reading from the letter to the
Hebrews.*

Faith is the assurance of things hoped
for, the conviction of things not
seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors
received approval. By faith we
understand that the worlds were
prepared by the word of God, so that
what is seen was made from things
that are not visible. By faith Abraham
obeyed when he was called to set out
for a place that he was to receive as
an inheritance; and he set out, not
knowing where he was going. By faith
he stayed for a time in the land he
had been promised, as in a foreign
land, living in tents, as did Isaac and
Jacob, who were heirs with him of the
same promise. For he looked forward
to the city that has foundations,
whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of
procreation, even though he was too
old – and Sarah herself was barren –
because he considered him faithful
who had promised. Therefore from
one person, and this one as good as
dead, descendants were born, "as
many as the stars of heaven and as
the innumerable grains of sand by the
seashore." All of these died in faith
without having received the promises,
but from a distance they saw and
greeted them. They confessed that
they were strangers and foreigners
on the earth, for people who speak
in this way make it clear that they
are seeking a homeland. If they had

been thinking of the land that they
had left behind, they would have
had opportunity to return. But as it
is, they desire a better country, that
is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is
not ashamed to be called their God;
indeed, he has prepared a city for
them.

GOSPEL Luke 12:32-40

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not
be afraid, little flock, for it is your
Father's good pleasure to give you
the kingdom. Sell your possessions,
and give alms. Make purses for
yourselves that do not wear out, an
unfailing treasure in heaven, where
no thief comes near and no moth
destroys. For where your treasure
is, there your heart will be also. Be
dressed for action and have your
lamps lit; be like those who are
waiting for their master to return from
the wedding banquet, so that they
may open the door for him as soon
as he comes and knocks. Blessed are
those slaves whom the master finds
alert when he comes; truly I tell you,
he will fasten his belt and have them
sit down to eat, and he will come and
serve them. If he comes during the
middle of the night, or near dawn,
and finds them so, blessed are those
slaves. But know this: if the owner of
the house had known at what hour
the thief was coming, he would not
have let his house be broken into.
You also must be ready, for the Son
of Man is coming at an unexpected
hour."

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your
word be deaf to clamour and
dispute;

may the tongues which have sung
your praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the
tokens of your love shine with the
light of hope;

and may the bodies which have been
fed with your body be refreshed
with the fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.