

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works
of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge the
living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM Psalm 25:1-9

R *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over
me.

Let none who look to you be put to
shame;

let the treacherous be disappointed
in their schemes. **R**

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day
long. **R**

Remember, O Lord, your
compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions;
remember me according to your
love
and for the sake of your goodness,
O Lord. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in
his way.

He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly. **R**

All the paths of the Lord are love
and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and
his testimonies.

For your name's sake, O Lord,
forgive my sin, for it is great. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-end

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

How can we thank God enough
for you in return for all the joy that
we feel before our God because
of you? Night and day we pray
most earnestly that we may see you
face to face and restore whatever
is lacking in your faith. Now may
our God and Father himself and
our Lord Jesus direct our way to
you. And may the Lord make you
increase and abound in love for
one another and for all, just as we
abound in love for you. And may he
so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before
our God and Father at the coming
of our Lord Jesus with all
his saints.

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "There
will be signs in the sun, the moon,
and the stars, and on the earth
distress among nations confused
by the roaring of the sea and the

waves. People will faint from fear
and foreboding of what is coming
upon the world, for the powers
of the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see 'the Son of Man
coming in a cloud' with power and
great glory. Now when these things
begin to take place, stand up and
raise your heads, because your
redemption is drawing near." Then
he told them a parable: "Look at the
fig tree and all the trees; as soon as
they sprout leaves you can see for
yourselves and know that summer is
already near. So also, when you see
these things taking place, you know
that the kingdom of God is near.
Truly I tell you, this generation will
not pass away until all things have
taken place. Heaven and earth will
pass away, but my words will not
pass away. Be on guard so that your
hearts are not weighed down with
dissipation and drunkenness and
the worries of this life, and that day
does not catch you unexpectedly,
like a trap. For it will come upon all
who live on the face of the whole
earth. Be alert at all times, praying
that you may have the strength to
escape all these things that will take
place, and to stand before the Son
of Man."

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us
faithful
as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.