

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have made us for yourself,
and our hearts are restless till they find
their rest in you:
pour your love into our hearts and draw
us to yourself,
and so bring us at last to your heavenly
city
where we shall see you face to face;
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 **Ezekiel 18:1-4. 25-end**

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.

The word of the LORD came to me:
What do you mean by repeating this
proverb concerning the land of Israel,
"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on
edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this
proverb shall no more be used by you in
Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the
life of the parent as well as the life of the
child is mine: it is only the person who
sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way
of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house
of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your
ways that are unfair? When the righteous
turn away from their righteousness and
commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for
the iniquity that they have committed
they shall die. Again, when the wicked
turn away from the wickedness they have
committed and do what is lawful and
right, they shall save their life. Because
they considered and turned away from
all the transgressions that they had
committed, they shall surely live; they
shall not die. Yet the house of Israel
says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O
house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it
not your ways that are unfair? Therefore
I will judge you, O house of Israel, all
of you according to your ways, says the
Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your
transgressions; otherwise iniquity will
be your ruin. Cast away from you all the
transgressions that you have committed
against me, and get yourselves a new
heart and a new spirit! Why will you die,
O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure
in the death of anyone, says the Lord
GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Or **Exodus 17:1-7**

PSALM Psalm 25:1-8

R Remember, O Lord, your compassion
and love.

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

SECOND READING Philippians 2:1-13

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If then there is any encouragement in
Christ, any consolation from love, any
sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and
sympathy, make my joy complete: be of
the same mind, having the same love,
being in full accord and of one mind. Do
nothing from selfish ambition or conceit,
but in humility regard others as better
than yourselves. Let each of you look not
to your own interests, but to the interests
of others. Let the same mind be in you
that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he
was in the form of God, did not regard
equality with God as something to be
exploited, but emptied himself, taking
the form of a slave, being born in human
likeness. And being found in human
form, he humbled himself and became
obedient to the point of death – even
death on a cross. Therefore God also
highly exalted him and gave him the
name that is above every name, so that
at the name of Jesus every knee should
bend, in heaven and on earth and under

the earth, and every tongue should
confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the
glory of God the Father. Therefore, my
beloved, just as you have always obeyed
me, not only in my presence, but much
more now in my absence, work out your
own salvation with fear and trembling;
for it is God who is at work in you,
enabling you both to will and to work for
his good pleasure.

GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the
chief priests and the elders of the people
came to him as he was teaching, and
said, "By what authority are you doing
these things, and who gave you this
authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will
also ask you one question; if you tell
me the answer, then I will also tell you
by what authority I do these things. Did
the baptism of John come from heaven,
or was it of human origin?" And they
argued with one another, "If we say,
'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why
then did you not believe him?' But if
we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid
of the crowd; for all regard John as a
prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We
do not know." And he said to them,
"Neither will I tell you by what authority
I am doing these things. What do you
think? A man had two sons; he went to
the first and said, 'Son, go and work in
the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will
not'; but later he changed his mind and
went. The father went to the second and
said the same; and he answered, 'I go,
sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two
did the will of his father?" They said,
"The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly
I tell you, the tax-collectors and the
prostitutes are going into the kingdom of
God ahead of you. For John came to you
in the way of righteousness and you did
not believe him, but the tax-collectors
and the prostitutes believed him; and
even after you saw it, you did not change
your minds and believe him."

POST COMMUNION

Lord, we pray that your grace
may always precede and follow us,
and make us continually to be given to
all good works;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.