

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of
your grace,
that we, running the way of your
commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly
treasure;
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 **Ecclesiasticus 10:12-18**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

The beginning of human pride is
to forsake the Lord; the heart has
withdrawn from its Maker. For the
beginning of pride is sin, and the one
who clings to it pours out abominations.
Therefore the Lord brings upon them
unheard-of calamities, and destroys
them completely. The Lord overthrows
the thrones of rulers, and enthrones the
lowly in their place. The Lord plucks
up the roots of the nations, and plants
the humble in their place. The Lord
lays waste the lands of the nations, and
destroys them to the foundations of the
earth. He removes some of them and
destroys them, and erases the memory
of them from the earth. Pride was not
created for human beings, or violent
anger for those born of women.

Or **Proverbs 25:6-7**

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's
presence or stand in the place of the
great; for it is better to be told, "Come
up here," than to be put lower in the
presence of a noble.

Or **Jeremiah 2:4-13**

PSALM Psalm 112

R *Light shines in the darkness for the upright.*

Alleluia!

Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his
commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the
land;

the generation of the upright will be
blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last for
ever. **R**

Light shines in the darkness for the
upright;

the righteous are merciful and full of
compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in
lending

and to manage their affairs with justice.

For they will never be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlasting
remembrance. **R**

They will not be afraid of any evil
rumours;

their heart is right;

they put their trust in the Lord.

Their heart is established and will not
shrink,

until they see their desire upon their
enemies. **R**

They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast for
ever;

they will hold up their head with honour.

The wicked will see it and be angry;

they will gnash their teeth and pine
away;

the desires of the wicked will perish. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8. 15-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not
neglect to show hospitality to strangers,
for by doing that some have entertained
angels without knowing it. Remember
those who are in prison, as though
you were in prison with them; those
who are being tortured, as though you
yourselves were being tortured. Let
marriage be held in honour by all, and
let the marriage bed be kept undefiled;
for God will judge fornicators and
adulterers. Keep your lives free from
the love of money, and be content with
what you have; for he has said, "I will
never leave you or forsake you." So we
can say with confidence, "The Lord is
my helper; I will not be afraid. What can
anyone do to me?" Remember your
leaders, those who spoke the word of
God to you; consider the outcome of
their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and
today and for ever. Through him, then,
let us continually offer a sacrifice of
praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips
that confess his name. Do not neglect
to do good and to share what you have,
for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL Luke 14:1. 7-14

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

On one occasion when Jesus was
going to the house of a leader of the
Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath,
they were watching him closely. When
he noticed how the guests chose
the places of honour, he told them
a parable. "When you are invited by
someone to a wedding banquet, do
not sit down at the place of honour, in
case someone more distinguished than
you has been invited by your host; and
the host who invited both of you may
come and say to you, 'Give this person
your place,' and then in disgrace you
would start to take the lowest place.
But when you are invited, go and sit
down at the lowest place, so that when
your host comes, he may say to you,
'Friend, move up higher'; then you will
be honoured in the presence of all who
sit at the table with you. For all who
exalt themselves will be humbled, and
those who humble themselves will be
exalted." He said also to the one who
had invited him, "When you give a
luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your
friends or your brothers or your relatives
or rich neighbours, in case they may
invite you in return, and you would be
repaid. But when you give a banquet,
invite the poor, the crippled, the lame,
and the blind. And you will be blessed,
because they cannot repay you, for you
will be repaid at the resurrection of the
righteous."

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated
that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings
pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the
gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.