

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who alone can bring order
to the unruly wills and passions of sinful
humanity:

give your people grace
so to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, among the many changes of this
world,
our hearts may surely there be fixed
where true joys are to be found;
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 Isaiah 58:1-9a. [9b-12]

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

Thus says the LORD: Shout out, do not
hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion, to
the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after
day they seek me and delight to know my
ways, as if they were a nation that practised
righteousness and did not forsake the
ordinance of their God; they ask of me
righteous judgements, they delight to draw
near to God. "Why do we fast, but you do
not see? Why humble ourselves, but you
do not notice?" Look, you serve your own
interest on your fast-day, and oppress all
your workers. Look, you fast only to quarrel
and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today will not make
your voice heard on high. Is such the fast
that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it
to bow down the head like a bulrush, and
to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call
this a fast, a day acceptable to the LORD?
Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose
the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs
of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke? Is it not to share
your bread with the hungry, and bring the
homeless poor into your house; when you
see the naked, to cover them, and not to
hide yourself from your own kin? Then your
light shall break forth like the dawn, and
your healing shall spring up quickly; your
vindicator shall go before you, the glory of
the LORD shall be your rearguard. Then
you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here
I am. [If you remove the yoke from among
you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking
of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday. The
LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy
your needs in parched places, and make
your bones strong; and you shall be like
a watered garden, like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail. Your ancient
ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the
foundations of many generations; you shall

be called the repairer of the breach, the
restorer of streets to live in.]

PSALM Psalm 112:1-9

*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. **R**

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last for ever.
Light shines in the darkness for the upright;
the righteous are merciful and full of
compassion. **R**

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

1 Corinthians 2:1-12. [13-end]

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

When I came to you, brothers and sisters,
I did not come proclaiming the mystery of
God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For
I decided to know nothing among you
except Jesus Christ, and him crucified.
And I came to you in weakness and in fear
and in much trembling. My speech and my
proclamation were not with plausible words
of wisdom, but with a demonstration of
the Spirit and of power, so that your faith
might rest not on human wisdom but on
the power of God. Yet among the mature
we do speak wisdom, though it is not a
wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this
age, who are doomed to perish. But we
speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden,
which God decreed before the ages for
our glory. None of the rulers of this age
understood this; for if they had, they would
not have crucified the Lord of glory. But,
as it is written, "What no eye has seen, nor
ear heard, nor the human heart conceived,
what God has prepared for those who love

him" – these things God has revealed to us
through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches
everything, even the depths of God. For
what human being knows what is truly
human except the human spirit that is
within? So also no one comprehends what
is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now
we have received not the spirit of the world,
but the Spirit that is from God, so that we
may understand the gifts bestowed on us
by God. [And we speak of these things in
words not taught by human wisdom but
taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual
things to those who are spiritual. Those
who are unspiritual do not receive the gifts
of God's Spirit, for they are foolishness to
them, and they are unable to understand
them because they are discerned spiritually.
Those who are spiritual discern all things,
and they are themselves subject to no one
else's scrutiny. "For who has known the
mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But
we have the mind of Christ.]

GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20

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

Jesus went up the mountain and was joined
by his disciples. Then he began to teach
them: "You are the salt of the earth; but if
salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness
be restored? It is no longer good for
anything, but is thrown out and trampled
under foot. You are the light of the world.
A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No
one after lighting a lamp puts it under the
bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it
gives light to all in the house. In the same
way, let your light shine before others, so
that they may see your good works and
give glory to your Father in heaven. Do not
think that I have come to abolish the law or
the prophets; I have come not to abolish
but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven
and earth pass away, not one letter, not
one stroke of a letter, will pass from the
law until all is accomplished. Therefore,
whoever breaks one of the least of these
commandments, and teaches others to do
the same, will be called least in the kingdom
of heaven; but whoever does them and
teaches them will be called great in the
kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless
your righteousness exceeds that of the
scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter
the kingdom of heaven."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
who gave Jesus Christ to be for us the
bread of life,
that those who come to him should never
hunger:
draw us to the Lord in faith and love,
that we may eat and drink with him
at his table in the kingdom.
where he is alive and reigns, now and for
ever.