

COLLECT

Most merciful God,
who by the death and resurrection
of your Son Jesus Christ
delivered and saved the world:
grant that by faith in him who
suffered on the cross
we may triumph in the power of
his victory;
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 43:16-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, who makes
a way in the sea, a path in the
mighty waters, who brings out
chariot and horse, army and
warrior; they lie down, they
cannot rise, they are extinguished,
quenched like a wick: Do not
remember the former things, or
consider the things of old. I am
about to do a new thing; now it
springs forth, do you not perceive
it? I will make a way in the
wilderness and rivers in the desert.
The wild animals will honour me,
the jackals and the ostriches; for I
give water in the wilderness, rivers
in the desert, to give drink to my
chosen people, the people whom
I formed for myself so that they
might declare my praise.

PSALM Psalm 126

R *The Lord has done great things
for us
[and we are glad indeed].*

When the Lord restored the
fortunes of Zion,
then were we like those who dream.
Then was our mouth filled with
laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**
Then they said among the nations,
"The Lord has done great things
for them."

The Lord has done great things
for us,
and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the watercourses of the
Negev.

Those who sowed with tears
will reap with songs of joy.
Those who go out weeping,
carrying the seed,
will come again with joy,
shouldering their sheaves. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

*A reading from the letter of Paul
to the Philippians.*

If anyone else has reason to be
confident in the flesh, I have
more: circumcised on the eighth
day, a member of the people of
Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,
a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as
to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal,
a persecutor of the church; as
to righteousness under the law,
blameless. Yet whatever gains I
had, these I have come to regard
as loss because of Christ. More
than that, I regard everything as
loss because of the surpassing
value of knowing Christ Jesus my
Lord. For his sake I have suffered
the loss of all things, and I regard
them as rubbish, in order that I
may gain Christ and be found in
him, not having a righteousness
of my own that comes from the
law, but one that comes through
faith in Christ, the righteousness
from God based on faith. I want to
know Christ and the power of his
resurrection and the sharing of his
sufferings by becoming like him in
his death, if somehow I may attain
the resurrection from the dead.
Not that I have already obtained
this or have already reached the
goal; but I press on to make it my
own, because Christ Jesus has
made me his own. Beloved, I do
not consider that I have made it

my own; but this one thing I do:
forgetting what lies behind and
straining forward to what lies
ahead, I press on towards the goal
for the prize of the heavenly call of
God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL John 12:1-8

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

Six days before the Passover
Jesus came to Bethany, the home
of Lazarus, whom he had raised
from the dead. There they gave
a dinner for him. Martha served,
and Lazarus was one of those at
the table with him. Mary took a
pound of costly perfume made of
pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet,
and wiped them with her hair. The
house was filled with the fragrance
of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot,
one of his disciples (the one who
was about to betray him), said,
"Why was this perfume not sold
for three hundred denarii and the
money given to the poor?" (He
said this not because he cared
about the poor, but because he
was a thief; he kept the common
purse and used to steal what was
put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her
alone. She bought it so that she
might keep it for the day of my
burial. You always have the poor
with you, but you do not always
have me."

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us
that what we do for the least of
our brothers and sisters
we do also for you:
give us the will to be the servant
of others
as you were the servant of all,
and gave up your life and died for
us,
but are alive and reign, now and
for ever.