

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
you are always more ready to hear than
we to pray
and to give more than either we desire
or deserve:
pour down upon us the abundance of
your mercy,
forgiving us those things of which our
conscience is afraid
and giving us those good things which
we are not worthy to ask
but through the merits and mediation
of 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

Deuteronomy 30:15-end

*A reading from the book of
Deuteronomy.*

See, I have set before you today life
and prosperity, death and adversity. If
you obey the commandments of the
LORD your God that I am commanding
you today, by loving the LORD your
God, walking in his ways, and observing
his commandments, decrees, and
ordinances, then you shall live and
become numerous, and the LORD your
God will bless you in the land that you
are entering to possess. But if your heart
turns away and you do not hear, but are
led astray to bow down to other gods
and serve them, I declare to you today
that you shall perish; you shall not live
long in the land that you are crossing
the Jordan to enter and possess. I call
heaven and earth to witness against you
today that I have set before you life and
death, blessings and curses. Choose
life so that you and your descendants
may live, loving the LORD your God,
obeying him, and holding fast to him;
for that means life to you and length of
days, so that you may live in the land
that the LORD swore to give to your
ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to
Jacob.

Or **Jeremiah 18:1-11**

PSALM Psalm 1

R *Lord, my delight is in your law.*

Happy are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and they meditate on his law day and
night. **R**

They are like trees planted by streams
of water,
bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.
It is not so with the wicked:
they are like chaff which the wind blows
away; **R**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand
upright
when judgement comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the
righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked is doomed. **R**

SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

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

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and
Timothy our brother, To Philemon our
dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia
our sister, to Archippus our fellow-
soldier, and to the church in your house:
Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
When I remember you in my prayers,
I always thank my God because I hear
of your love for all the saints and your
faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray
that the sharing of your faith may
become effective when you perceive
all the good that we may do for Christ.
I have indeed received much joy and
encouragement from your love, because
the hearts of the saints have been
refreshed through you, my brother. For
this reason, though I am bold enough in
Christ to command you to do your duty,
yet I would rather appeal to you on the
basis of love – and I, Paul, do this as
an old man, and now also as a prisoner
of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you
for my child, Onesimus, whose father I
have become during my imprisonment.
Formerly he was useless to you, but
now he is indeed useful both to you
and to me. I am sending him, that is,
my own heart, back to you. I wanted to
keep him with me, so that he might be
of service to me in your place during
my imprisonment for the gospel; but I
preferred to do nothing without your
consent, in order that your good deed
might be voluntary and not something
forced. Perhaps this is the reason he

was separated from you for a while, so
that you might have him back for ever,
no longer as a slave but more than a
slave, a beloved brother – especially to
me but how much more to you, both
in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you
consider me your partner, welcome him
as you would welcome me. If he has
wronged you in any way, or owes you
anything, charge that to my account.
I, Paul, am writing this with my own
hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about
your owing me even your own self. Yes,
brother, let me have this benefit from
you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in
Christ. Confident of your obedience, I
am writing to you, knowing that you will
do even more than I say.

GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

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

Large crowds were travelling with
Jesus; and he turned and said to them,
"Whoever comes to me and does
not hate father and mother, wife and
children, brothers and sisters, yes, and
even life itself, cannot be my disciple.
Whoever does not carry the cross
and follow me cannot be my disciple.
For which of you, intending to build
a tower, does not first sit down and
estimate the cost, to see whether he
has enough to complete it? Otherwise,
when he has laid a foundation and is
not able to finish, all who see it will
begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This
fellow began to build and was not able
to finish.' Or what king, going out to
wage war against another king, will not
sit down first and consider whether he
is able with ten thousand to oppose
the one who comes against him with
twenty thousand? If he cannot, then,
while the other is still far away, he sends
a delegation and asks for the terms of
peace. So therefore, none of you can
become my disciple if you do not give
up all your possessions."

POST COMMUNION

God of all mercy,
in this eucharist you have set aside our
sins
and given us your healing:
grant that we who are made whole in
Christ
may bring that healing to this broken
world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.