

COLLECT

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong,
nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord Jesus Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey,
on a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will
cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the
nations; his dominion shall be from
sea to sea, and from the River to
the ends of the earth. As for you
also, because of the blood of my
covenant with you, I will set your
prisoners free from the waterless
pit. Return to your stronghold, O
prisoners of hope; today I declare
that I will restore to you double.

PSALM Psalm 145:8-15

R *Great is the Lord and highly to be praised.*

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great goodness.
The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his
creatures. **R**

All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.
They tell of the glory of your
kingdom
and speak of your mighty power, **R**

To make known to all peoples your
mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your
kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting
kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout
all ages. **R**

The Lord is sure in all his words
and faithful in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed
down. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I do not understand my own
actions. For I do not do what I want,
but I do the very thing I hate. Now
if I do what I do not want, I agree
that the law is good. But in fact it is
no longer I that do it, but sin that
dwells within me. For I know that
nothing good dwells within me,
that is, in my flesh. I can will what is
right, but I cannot do it. For I do not
do the good I want, but the evil I do
not want is what I do. Now if I do
what I do not want, it is no longer I
that do it, but sin that dwells within
me. So I find it to be a law that
when I want to do what is good,
evil lies close at hand. For I delight
in the law of God in my inmost self,
but I see in my members another
law at war with the law of my mind,
making me captive to the law of
sin that dwells in my members.
Wretched man that I am! Who will
rescue me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God through Jesus
Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-end

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

At that time Jesus said, "To what
will I compare this generation?
It is like children sitting in the
market-places and calling to one
another, 'We played the flute for
you, and you did not dance; we
wailed, and you did not mourn.'
For John came neither eating nor
drinking, and they say, 'He has
a demon'; the Son of Man came
eating and drinking, and they say,
'Look, a glutton and a drunkard,
a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!'
Yet wisdom is vindicated by her
deeds. I thank you, Father, Lord
of heaven and earth, because you
have hidden these things from
the wise and the intelligent and
have revealed them to infants;
yes, Father, for such was your
gracious will. All things have been
handed over to me by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except
the Father, and no one knows
the Father except the Son and
anyone to whom the Son chooses
to reveal him. Come to me, all you
that are weary and are carrying
heavy burdens, and I will give you
rest. Take my yoke upon you, and
learn from me; for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find
rest for your souls. For my yoke is
easy, and my burden is light."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,
comfort of the afflicted and healer
of the broken,
you have fed us at the table of life
and hope:
teach us the ways of gentleness and
peace,
that all the world may acknowledge
the kingdom of your Son Jesus
Christ our Lord.

