

COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus
Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in
heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour
Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)
The reading from Acts must be used as
either the first or second reading.

Acts 1:6-14

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.
When the apostles had come together,
they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when
you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He
replied, "It is not for you to know the times
or periods that the Father has set by his
own authority. But you will receive power
when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;
and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem,
in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends
of the earth." When he had said this, as
they were watching, he was lifted up, and a
cloud took him out of their sight. While he
was going and they were gazing up towards
heaven, suddenly two men in white robes
stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee,
why do you stand looking up towards
heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up
from you into heaven, will come in the same
way as you saw him go into heaven." Then
they returned to Jerusalem from the mount
called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a
sabbath day's journey away. When they had
entered the city, they went to the room
upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and
John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and
Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James
son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot,
and Judas son of James. All these were
constantly devoting themselves to prayer,
together with certain women, including
Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his
brothers.

Or **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

PSALM

Psalm 68:1-10. 32-end (or 68:1-10)

R Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Let God arise and let his enemies be
scattered;
let those that hate him flee before him.
As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish
away;



Sing - to God, sing prai-ses to his name.

as wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked
perish at the presence of God. **R**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice
before God;
let them make merry with gladness.
Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
exalt him who rides on the clouds.
The Lord is his name; rejoice before him. **R**

Father of the fatherless, defender of
widows,
God in his holy habitation!
God gives the solitary a home
and brings forth prisoners to songs of
welcome,
but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. **R**

O God, when you went forth before your
people,
when you marched through the wilderness,
The earth shook and the heavens dropped
down rain, at the presence of God, the
Lord of Sinai,
at the presence of God, the God of
Israel. **R**

You sent down a gracious rain, O God;
you refreshed your inheritance when it was
weary.
Your people came to dwell there;
in your goodness, O God, you provide for
the poor. **R**

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;
make music in praise of the Lord;
He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens
and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice. **R**

Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is
over Israel,
whose power is above the clouds.
How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary,
the God of Israel, who gives power and
strength to his people!
Blessed be God. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

Either 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery
ordeal that is taking place among you to
test you, as though something strange
were happening to you. But rejoice in so
far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,
so that you may also be glad and shout
for joy when his glory is revealed. If you
are reviled for the name of Christ, you are
blessed, because the spirit of glory, which
is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.
Humble yourselves therefore under the
mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt
you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on
him, because he cares for you. Discipline
yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion

your adversary the devil prowls around,
looking for someone to devour. Resist him,
steadfast in your faith, for you know that
your brothers and sisters throughout the
world are undergoing the same kinds of
suffering. And after you have suffered for
a little while, the God of all grace, who has
called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will
himself restore, support, strengthen, and
establish you. To him be the power for ever
and ever. Amen.

Or **Acts 1:6-14** (as above)

GOSPEL John 17:1-11

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,
"Father, the hour has come; glorify your
Son so that the Son may glorify you, since
you have given him authority over all
people, to give eternal life to all whom
you have given him. And this is eternal
life, that they may know you, the only true
God, and Jesus Christ whom you have
sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing
the work that you gave me to do. So now,
Father, glorify me in your own presence
with the glory that I had in your presence
before the world existed. I have made your
name known to those whom you gave me
from the world. They were yours, and you
gave them to me, and they have kept your
word. Now they know that everything you
have given me is from you; for the words
that you gave to me I have given to them,
and they have received them and know in
truth that I came from you; and they have
believed that you sent me. I am asking on
their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of
the world, but on behalf of those whom
you gave me, because they are yours. All
mine are yours, and yours are mine; and
I have been glorified in them. And now I
am no longer in the world, but they are in
the world, and I am coming to you. Holy
Father, protect them in your name that you
have given me, so that they may be one,
as we are one."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all
the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we
proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.