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 prisonersfree from the waterless pit. Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope; today I declare that I will restore to you double.

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!

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.

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.
COLLECT
Almighty and everlasting God, by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church is governed and sanctified; hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people, that in their vocation and ministry they may serve you in holiness and truth to the glory of your name; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:10-13
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD: As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills shall leap before you; they shall see and be glad, and enter into the temple of the LORD.

PSALM Psalm 65 [or 65:8-13] R
Be joyful in God, all the earth. Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion; to you that answer prayer shall vows be paid.

SECOND READING Romans 8:1-11
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and to deal with sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, so that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the Spirit, the mind set on the things of the Spirit.

POST COMMUNION
Grant, O Lord, we beseech you, that the course of this world may be so peaceably ordered by your governance, that your Church may joyfully serve you in all godly quietness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
COLLECT
Merciful God,
you have prepared for those who love you
such good things as pass our
understanding:
pour into our hearts such love toward you
that we, loving you in all things and above
all things,
may obtain your promises,
which exceed all that we can desire;
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
Either Wisdom of Solomon 12:13. 16-19
A reading from the book of Wisdom.
There is not any god besides you, Lord,
whose care is for all people, to whom you
should prove that you have not judged
justly; for your strength is the source
of righteousness, and your sovereignty
over all causes you to spare all. For you
show your strength when people doubt
the completeness of your power, and you
rebuke any insolence among those who
know it. Although you are sovereign in
strength, you judge with mildness, and
with great forbearance you govern us;
for you have power to act whenever you
choose. Through such works you have
taught your people that the righteous
must be kind, and you have filled your
children with good hope, because you
give repentance for sins.

Or Isaiah 44:6-8
A reading from the book of the prophet
Isaiah.
Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and
his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: I am the
first and I am the last; besides me there is
no god. Who is like me? Let them proclaim
it, let them declare and set it forth before
those who hate me may see it and
be ashamed;
then, did these weeds come from? He
answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The
lands to them, ‘Then do you want us
to go and gather them?’ But he replied,
‘No; for in gathering the weeds you would
uproot the wheat along with them. Let
both of them grow together until the
harvest; and at harvest time I will tell the
reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind
them in bundles to be burned, but gather
the wheat into my barn.’ Then Jesus
left the crowds and went into the house.
And his disciples approached him, saying,
‘Explain to us the parable of the weeds
of the field.’ He answered, ‘The one
who sows the good seed is the Son of
Man; the field is the world, and the good
seed are the children of the kingdom; the
weeds are the children of the evil one and
the enemy who sowed them is the devil;
the harvest is the end of the age, and
the reapers are angels. Just as the weeds
are collected and burned up with fire, so
will it be at the end of the age. The Son
of Man will send his angels, and they will throw them
into the furnace of fire, where there will
be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Then
the righteous will shine like the sun in the
kingdom of their Father. Let anyone with
ears listen!’

SECOND READING
Romans 8:12-25
A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Romans.
Brothers and sisters, we are debtors,
ot to the flesh, to live according to the
flesh – for if you live according to the
flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you
put to death the deeds of the body, you
will live. For all who are led by the Spirit
of God are children of God. For you
did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall
back into fear, but you have received a spirit
of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”
it is that very Spirit bearing witness with
our spirit that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs, heirs of God
and joint heirs with Christ – if, in fact,
we suffer with him so that we may also
be glorified with him. I consider that the
sufferings of this present time are not
worth comparing with the glory about to
be revealed to us. For the creation waits
with eager longing for the revealing of the
children of God; for the creation was
subjected to futility, not of its own will
but by the will of the one who subjected
it, in hope that the creation itself will be
set free from its bondage to decay and
will obtain the freedom of the glory of the
children of God. We know that the whole
creation has been groaning in labour
pains until now; and not only the creation,
but we ourselves, who have the first fruits
of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we
wait for adoption, the redemption of our
bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now

I will thank you, O Lord my God,
with all my heart,
and glorify your name for evermore; R
For great is your steadfast love towards
me,
for you have delivered my soul from the
depths of the grave.
O God, the proud rise up against me
and a ruthless horde seek after my life;
they have not set you before their eyes. R
But you, Lord, are gracious and full of
compassion,
slow to anger and full of kindness and
truth.
Turn to me and have mercy upon me;
give your strength to your servant
and save the child of your handmaid.
Show me a token of your favour,
that those who hate me may see it and
be ashamed;
because you, O Lord, have helped and
comforted me. R

POST COMMUNION
God of our pilgrimage,
you have led us to the living water:
refresh and sustain us
as we go forward on our journey,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

COLLECT
Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft in our hearts the love of your name, increase in us true religion, nourish us with all goodness, and of your great mercy keep us in the same; 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 1 Kings 3:5-12
A reading from the first book of Kings.
At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?” It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you.”

SECOND READING Romans 8:26-end
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.
The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for us, who is against us? 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POST COMMUNION
Lord God, whose Son is the true vine and the source of life, ever giving himself that the world may live: may we so receive within ourselves the power of his death and passion that, in his saving cup, we may share his glory and be made perfect in his love; for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

GOSPEL Matthew 13:31-33. 44-52
Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Jesus put before the crowd another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.” He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened. The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

Romans 8:26-end:
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.
The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. And those whom he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? Who will bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of God? May God forbid? May Christ Jesus also be our intercessor? Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, “For your sake we are being killed all day long: we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.” No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Psalm 119:129-136
R The opening of your word gives light. Your testimonies are wonderful; therefore my soul keeps them. The opening of your word gives light; it gives understanding to the simple. R I open my mouth and draw in my breath, as I long for your commandments.

R

The opening of your word gives light.