

COLLECT

Almighty God,
give us grace to cast away the works
of darkness
and to put on the armour of light,
now in the time of this mortal life,
in which your Son Jesus Christ
came to us in great humility;
that on the last day,
when he shall come again in his
glorious majesty to judge the
living and the dead,
we may rise to the life immortal;
through him who is alive and reigns
with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 33:14-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

PSALM Psalm 25:1-9

R *To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.*

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul;
my God, I put my trust in you;
let me not be humiliated,
nor let my enemies triumph over me.

Let none who look to you be put to shame;

let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes. **R**

Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.

Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
in you have I trusted all the day
long. **R**

Remember, O Lord, your
compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.
Remember not the sins of my youth
and my transgressions;
remember me according to your
love
and for the sake of your goodness,
O Lord. **R**

Gracious and upright is the Lord;
therefore he teaches sinners in
his way.

He guides the humble in doing right
and teaches his way to the lowly. **R**

All the paths of the Lord are love
and faithfulness
to those who keep his covenant and
his testimonies.

For your name's sake, O Lord,
forgive my sin, for it is great. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 3:9-end

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.

GOSPEL Luke 21:25-36

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the

waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near." Then he told them a parable: "Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man."

POST COMMUNION

O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us
faithful
as we await the coming of your Son
our Lord;
that, when he shall appear,
he may not find us sleeping in sin
but active in his service
and joyful in his praise;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.