

COLLECT

O God, you declare your almighty power
most chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
mercifully grant to us such a measure of
your grace,
that we, running the way of your
commandments,
may receive your gracious promises,
and be made partakers of your heavenly
treasure;
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 **Ecclesiasticus 10:12-18**

A reading from the book of Ecclesiasticus.

The beginning of human pride is to forsake the Lord; the heart has withdrawn from its Maker. For the beginning of pride is sin, and the one who clings to it pours out abominations. Therefore the Lord brings upon them unheard-of calamities, and destroys them completely. The Lord overthrows the thrones of rulers, and enthrones the lowly in their place. The Lord plucks up the roots of the nations, and plants the humble in their place. The Lord lays waste the lands of the nations, and destroys them to the foundations of the earth. He removes some of them and destroys them, and erases the memory of them from the earth. Pride was not created for human beings, or violent anger for those born of women.

Or **Proverbs 25:6-7**

A reading from the book of Proverbs.

Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great; for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

Or **Jeremiah 2:4-13**

PSALM Psalm 112

R *Light shines in the darkness for the upright.*

Alleluia!

Happy are they who fear the Lord
and have great delight in his
commandments!

Their descendants will be mighty in the
land;

the generation of the upright will be
blessed.

Wealth and riches will be in their house,
and their righteousness will last for
ever. **R**

Light shines in the darkness for the
upright;

the righteous are merciful and full of
compassion.

It is good for them to be generous in
lending

and to manage their affairs with justice.
For they will never be shaken;

the righteous will be kept in everlasting
remembrance. **R**

They will not be afraid of any evil
rumours;

their heart is right;

they put their trust in the Lord.

Their heart is established and will not
shrink,

until they see their desire upon their
enemies. **R**

They have given freely to the poor,
and their righteousness stands fast for
ever;

they will hold up their head with honour.

The wicked will see it and be angry;
they will gnash their teeth and pine

away;

the desires of the wicked will perish. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 13:1-8. 15-16

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?" Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

GOSPEL Luke 14:1. 7-14

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

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted." He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

POST COMMUNION

Lord of all mercy,
we your faithful people have celebrated
that one true sacrifice
which takes away our sins and brings
pardon and peace:
by our communion
keep us firm on the foundation of the
gospel
and preserve us from all sin;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.