

COLLECT

Blessed Lord,
 who caused all holy scriptures to be
 written for our learning:
 help us so to hear them,
 to read, mark, learn and inwardly
 digest them
 that, through patience, and the
 comfort of your holy word,
 we may embrace and for ever hold
 fast the hope of everlasting life,
 which you have given us in our
 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

Leviticus 19:1-2. 15-18

A reading from the book of Leviticus.

The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
 "Speak to all the congregation of
 the people of Israel and say to them:
 You shall be holy, for I the LORD your
 God am holy. You shall not render
 an unjust judgement; you shall not
 be partial to the poor or defer to the
 great: with justice you shall judge
 your neighbour. You shall not go
 around as a slanderer among your
 people, and you shall not profit by
 the blood of your neighbour: I am
 the LORD. You shall not hate in your
 heart anyone of your kin; you shall
 reprove your neighbour, or you will
 incur guilt yourself. You shall not take
 vengeance or bear a grudge against
 any of your people, but you shall
 love your neighbour as yourself: I
 am the LORD."

PSALM Psalm 1

R *The Lord knows the way of the
 righteous.*

Blessed are they who have not walked
 in the counsel of the wicked,
 nor lingered in the way of sinners,
 nor sat in the assembly of the
 scornful.
 Their delight is in the law of the Lord
 and they meditate on his law day and
 night.



Like a tree planted by streams of
 water
 bearing fruit in due season, with
 leaves that do not wither,
 whatever they do, it shall prosper. **R**

As for the wicked, it is not so with
 them;
 they are like chaff which the wind
 blows away.
 Therefore the wicked shall not be
 able to stand in the judgement,
 nor the sinner in the congregation of
 the righteous.
 For the Lord knows the way of the
 righteous,
 but the way of the wicked shall
 perish. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

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

You yourselves know, brothers and
 sisters, that our coming to you was
 not in vain, but though we had
 already suffered and been shamefully
 mistreated at Philippi, as you know,
 we had courage in our God to
 declare to you the gospel of God
 in spite of great opposition. For our
 appeal does not spring from deceit
 or impure motives or trickery, but just
 as we have been approved by God
 to be entrusted with the message of
 the gospel, even so we speak, not
 to please mortals, but to please God
 who tests our hearts. As you know
 and as God is our witness, we never
 came with words of flattery or with
 a pretext for greed; nor did we seek
 praise from mortals, whether from
 you or from others, though we might
 have made demands as apostles of
 Christ. But we were gentle among
 you, like a nurse tenderly caring for
 her own children. So deeply do we
 care for you that we are determined
 to share with you not only the gospel
 of God but also our own selves,
 because you have become very dear
 to us.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:34-46

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

When the Pharisees heard that
 he had silenced the Sadducees,
 they gathered together, and one
 of them, a lawyer, asked him a
 question to test him. "Teacher,
 which commandment in the law is
 the greatest?" He said to him, "'You
 shall love the Lord your God with all
 your heart, and with all your soul,
 and with all your mind.' This is the
 greatest and first commandment. And
 a second is like it: 'You shall love
 your neighbour as yourself.' On these
 two commandments hang all the law
 and the prophets." Now while the
 Pharisees were gathered together,
 Jesus asked them this question:
 "What do you think of the Messiah?
 Whose son is he?" They said to him,
 "The son of David." He said to them,
 "How is it then that David by the
 Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The
 Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right
 hand, until I put your enemies under
 your feet"'? If David thus calls him
 Lord, how can he be his son?" No
 one was able to give him an answer,
 nor from that day did anyone dare to
 ask him any more questions.

POST COMMUNION

God of all grace,
 your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry
 with the bread of his life
 and the word of his kingdom:
 renew your people with your heavenly
 grace,
 and in all our weakness
 sustain us by your true and living
 bread;
 who is alive and reigns, now and for
 ever.