

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who called your Church to bear  
witness  
that you were in Christ reconciling  
the world to yourself:  
help us to proclaim the good news  
of your love,  
that all who hear it may be drawn  
to you;  
through him who was lifted up on  
the cross,  
and reigns with you in the unity of  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

### Ezekiel 33:7-11

*A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.*

The word of the Lord came to me: So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, "O wicked ones, you shall surely die," and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life. Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: "Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?" Say to them, As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

## PSALM Psalm 119:33-40

**R** Give me understanding and  
I shall keep your law.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes,

and I shall keep it to the end.  
Give me understanding and  
I shall keep your law;  
I shall keep it with all my heart. **R**

Make me go in the path of your  
commandments,  
for that is my desire.  
Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain. **R**

Turn my eyes from watching what  
is worthless;  
give me life in your ways.  
Fulfil your promise to your servant,  
which you make to those who fear  
you. **R**

Turn away the reproach which  
I dread,  
because your judgements are good.  
Behold, I long for your  
commandments;  
in your righteousness preserve my  
life. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Romans 13:8-14

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbour as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and

make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

## GOSPEL Matthew 18:15-20

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

Jesus spoke to his disciples. "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

## POST COMMUNION

God our creator,  
you feed your children with the  
true manna,  
the living bread from heaven:  
let this holy food sustain us  
through our earthly pilgrimage  
until we come to that place  
where hunger and thirst are no  
more;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
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

**Genesis 50:15-21**

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

## PSALM

**Psalms 103:1-7, 8-13**

**R** *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
[slow to anger and of great kindness].*

[Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits. **R**

He forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;  
He redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; **R**

He satisfies you with good things,  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness

and judgement for all who are  
oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses  
and his works to the children of Israel. **R]**

The Lord is full of compassion and  
mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to  
our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our  
wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the  
earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who  
fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.  
As a father cares for his children,  
so does the Lord care for those who  
fear him. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 14:1-12**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.*

Welcome those who are weak in faith,  
but not for the purpose of quarrelling  
over opinions. Some believe in eating  
anything, while the weak eat only  
vegetables. Those who eat must not  
despise those who abstain, and those  
who abstain must not pass judgement  
on those who eat; for God has  
welcomed them. Who are you to pass  
judgement on servants of another? It is  
before their own lord that they stand  
or fall. And they will be upheld, for  
the Lord is able to make them stand.  
Some judge one day to be better than  
another, while others judge all days to  
be alike. Let all be fully convinced in  
their own minds. Those who observe  
the day, observe it in honour of the  
Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour  
of the Lord, since they give thanks to  
God; while those who abstain, abstain  
in honour of the Lord and give thanks  
to God. We do not live to ourselves,  
and we do not die to ourselves. If we  
live, we live to the Lord, and if we die,  
we die to the Lord; so then, whether  
we live or whether we die, we are the  
Lord's. For to this end Christ died and  
lived again, so that he might be Lord  
of both the dead and the living. Why  
do you pass judgement on your brother  
or sister? Or you, why do you despise  
your brother or sister? For we will all  
stand before the judgement seat of  
God. For

it is written, "As I live, says the Lord,  
every knee shall bow to me, and every  
tongue shall give praise to God." So  
then, each of us will be accountable  
to God.

## GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord,  
if another member of the church sins  
against me, how often should I forgive?  
As many as seven times?" Jesus said  
to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell  
you, seventy-seven times. For this  
reason the kingdom of heaven may  
be compared to a king who wished to  
settle accounts with his slaves. When  
he began the reckoning, one who owed  
him ten thousand talents was brought  
to him; and, as he could not pay, his  
lord ordered him to be sold, together  
with his wife and children and all his  
possessions, and payment to be made.  
So the slave fell on his knees before  
him, saying, 'Have patience with me,  
and I will pay you everything.' And out  
of pity for him, the lord of that slave  
released him and forgave him the debt.  
But that same slave, as he went out,  
came upon one of his fellow-slaves  
who owed him a hundred denarii; and  
seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay  
what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave  
fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have  
patience with me, and I will pay you.'  
But he refused; then he went and threw  
him into prison until he would pay  
the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw  
what had happened, they were greatly  
distressed, and they went and reported  
to their lord all that had taken place.  
Then his lord summoned him and said  
to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you  
all that debt because you pleaded with  
me. Should you not have had mercy  
on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on  
you?' And in anger his lord handed him  
over to be tortured until he would pay  
his entire debt. So my heavenly Father  
will also do to every one of you, if you  
do not forgive your brother or sister  
from your heart."

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching  
and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of  
bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

## COLLECT

God, who in generous mercy sent the Holy Spirit upon your Church in the burning fire of your love: grant that your people may be fervent in the fellowship of the gospel that, always abiding in you, they may be found steadfast in faith and active in service; 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 Jonah 3:10 – 4:11

*A reading from the book of Jonah.*

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it. But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the LORD and said, "O LORD! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O LORD, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live." And the LORD said, "Is it right for you to be angry?" Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city. The LORD God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, "It is better for me to die than to live." But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?" And he said, "Yes, angry enough to die." Then the LORD said, "You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labour and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than

a hundred and twenty thousand people who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?"

## PSALM Psalm 145:1-8

**R** *The Lord is near to those who call upon him.*

I will exalt you, O God my King, and bless your name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless you and praise your name for ever and ever. **R**

Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness. One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power. **R**

I will ponder the glorious splendour of your majesty and all your marvellous works. They shall speak of the might of your wondrous acts, and I will tell of your greatness. **R**

They shall publish the remembrance of your great goodness; they shall sing of your righteous deeds. The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and of great kindness. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Philippians 1:21-30

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of

suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## GOSPEL Matthew 20:1-16

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

## POST COMMUNION

Keep, O Lord, your Church, with your perpetual mercy; and, because without you our human frailty cannot but fall, keep us ever by your help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## COLLECT

O Lord, we beseech you mercifully to hear the prayers of your people who call upon you; and grant that they may both perceive and know what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfil them; 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

### Ezekiel 18:1-4. 25-32

*A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.*

The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die. Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

## PSALM Psalm 25:1-9

**R** Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love.

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

## SECOND READING

### Philippians 2:1-13

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you,

enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

## GOSPEL Matthew 21:23-32

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

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax-collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax-collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him."

## POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, you have taught us through your Son that love is the fulfilling of the law: grant that we may love you with our whole heart and our neighbours as ourselves; through Jesus Christ our Lord.