

## 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

(Alternative readings)

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 unjustly; 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 me. Who has announced  
from of old the things to come? Let them  
tell us what is yet to be. Do not fear, or  
be afraid; have I not told you from of old  
and declared it? You are my witnesses! Is  
there any god besides me? There is no  
other rock; I know not one.

## PSALM Psalm 86:11-17

**R** You, Lord, are gracious and full of  
compassion.

Teach me your way, O Lord,  
and I will walk in your truth;

knit my heart to you that I may fear your  
name.

I will thank you, O Lord my God, with all  
my heart,  
and glorify your name for evermore.  
For great is your love towards me;  
you have delivered me from the  
nethermost Pit. **R**

The arrogant rise up against me, O God,  
and a violent band seeks my life;  
they have not set you before their eyes.  
But you, O Lord, are gracious and full of  
compassion,  
slow to anger and full of kindness and  
truth. **R**

Turn to me and have mercy upon me;  
give your strength to your servant;  
and save the child of your handmaid.  
Show me a sign of your favour,  
so that those who hate me may see it  
and be ashamed;  
because you, O Lord, have helped me  
and comforted me. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Romans 8:12-25

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

Brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not  
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 hope that is seen  
is not hope. For who hopes for what is  
seen? But if we hope for what we do not  
see, we wait for it with patience.

## GOSPEL

### Matthew 13:24-30. 36-43

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

Jesus put before the crowd another  
parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be  
compared to someone who sowed good  
seed in his field; but while everybody  
was asleep, an enemy came and sowed  
weeds among the wheat, and then went  
away. So when the plants came up and  
bore grain then the weeds appeared as  
well. And the slaves of the householder  
came and said to him, ‘Master, did you  
not sow good seed in your field? Where,  
then, did these weeds come from?’ He  
answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The  
slaves said to him, ‘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 collect out  
of his kingdom all causes of sin and all  
evildoers, 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!”

## 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.