

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power of
darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of your
Son:
grant, that as by his death he has recalled
us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he
may raise us to eternal joy;
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)

The reading from Acts must be used as
either the first or second reading.

Either Acts 17:22-31

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus
and said, "Athenians, I see how extremely
religious you are in every way. For as
I went through the city and looked
carefully at the objects of your worship,
I found among them an altar with the
inscription, 'To an unknown god.' What
therefore you worship as unknown, this
I proclaim to you. The God who made
the world and everything in it, he who is
Lord of heaven and earth, does not live
in shrines made by human hands, nor is
he served by human hands, as though
he needed anything, since he himself
gives to all mortals life and breath and
all things. From one ancestor he made all
nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he
allotted the times of their existence and the
boundaries of the places where they would
live, so that they would search for God
and perhaps grope for him and find him
– though indeed he is not far from each
one of us. For 'In him we live and move
and have our being'; as even some of your
own poets have said, 'For we too are his
offspring.' Since we are God's offspring,
we ought not to think that the deity is like
gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed
by the art and imagination of mortals.
While God has overlooked the times of
human ignorance, now he commands all
people everywhere to repent, because he
has fixed a day on which he will have the
world judged in righteousness by a man
whom he has appointed, and of this he has
given assurance to all by raising him from
the dead."

Or **Genesis 8:20 – 9:17**

PSALM Psalm 66:7-18

*R All the earth shall worship you,
O Lord.*

Bless our God, O you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be heard,
Who holds our souls in life
and suffers not our feet to slip. **R**

For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of
liberty. **R**

I will come into your house with burnt
offerings
and will pay you my vows,
which my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in
trouble.

I will offer you fat burnt sacrifices
with the smoke of rams;
I will sacrifice oxen and goats. **R**

Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done for
my soul.

I called out to him with my mouth
and his praise was on my tongue. **R**

If I had nursed evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me,
But in truth God has heard me;
he has heeded the voice of my prayer.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected my
prayer,
nor withheld his loving mercy from
me. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

Either 1 Peter 3:13-22

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Who will harm you if you are eager to
do what is good? But even if you do
suffer for doing what is right, you are
blessed. Do not fear what they fear,
and do not be intimidated, but in your
hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be
ready to make your defence to anyone
who demands from you an account of
the hope that is in you; yet do it with
gentleness and reverence. Keep your
conscience clear, so that, when you are
maligned, those who abuse you for your

good conduct in Christ may be put to
shame. For it is better to suffer for doing
good, if suffering should be God's will,
than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ
also suffered for sins once for all, the
righteous for the unrighteous, in order
to bring you to God. He was put to
death in the flesh, but made alive in the
spirit, in which also he went and made
a proclamation to the spirits in prison,
who in former times did not obey, when
God waited patiently in the days of
Noah, during the building of the ark,
in which a few, that is, eight persons,
were saved through water. And baptism,
which this prefigured, now saves you –
not as a removal of dirt from the body,
but as an appeal to God for a good
conscience, through the resurrection of
Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven
and is at the right hand of God, with
angels, authorities, and powers made
subject to him.

Or **Acts 17:22-31** (as above)

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love
me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father, and he will give
you another Advocate, to be with you for
ever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the
world cannot receive, because it neither
sees him nor knows him. You know him,
because he abides with you, and he will
be in you. I will not leave you orphaned;
I am coming to you. In a little while the
world will no longer see me, but you will
see me; because I live, you also will live.
On that day you will know that I am in
my Father, and you in me, and I in you.
They who have my commandments and
keep them are those who love me; and
those who love me will be loved by my
Father, and I will love them and reveal
myself to them."

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the water
of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.

