

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is  
before,  
we may run the way of your  
commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting  
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 Genesis 32:22-31

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

At night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

## PSALM Psalm 121

**R** *The Lord shall keep you from all evil.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth. **R**

He will not suffer your foot to  
stumble;  
he who watches over you will not  
sleep.

Behold, he who keeps watch over  
Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep. **R**

The Lord himself watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right  
hand,

So that the sun shall not strike you  
by day,  
neither the moon by night. **R**

The Lord shall keep you from all evil;  
it is he who shall keep your soul.  
The Lord shall keep watch over your  
going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore. **R**

## SECOND READING

### 2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

*A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.*

Continue in what you have learned  
and firmly believed, knowing from  
whom you learned it, and how  
from childhood you have known  
the sacred writings that are able to  
instruct you for salvation through  
faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture  
is inspired by God and is useful for  
teaching, for reproof, for correction,  
and for training in righteousness, so  
that everyone who belongs to God  
may be proficient, equipped for  
every good work. In the presence  
of God and of Christ Jesus, who is  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and in view of his appearing and  
his kingdom, I solemnly urge you:  
proclaim the message; be persistent  
whether the time is favourable or  
unfavourable; convince, rebuke,  
and encourage, with the utmost

patience in teaching. For the time  
is coming when people will not put  
up with sound doctrine, but having  
itching ears, they will accumulate  
for themselves teachers to suit their  
own desires, and will turn away from  
listening to the truth and wander  
away to myths. As for you, always  
be sober, endure suffering, do the  
work of an evangelist, carry out your  
ministry fully.

## GOSPEL Luke 18:1-8

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

Jesus told his disciples a parable  
about their need to pray always  
and not to lose heart. He said, "In a  
certain city there was a judge who  
neither feared God nor had respect  
for people. In that city there was a  
widow who kept coming to him and  
saying, 'Grant me justice against  
my opponent.' For a while he  
refused; but later he said to himself,  
'Though I have no fear of God and  
no respect for anyone, yet because  
this widow keeps bothering me, I  
will grant her justice, so that she  
may not wear me out by continually  
coming.'" And the Lord said,  
"Listen to what the unjust judge  
says. And will not God grant justice  
to his chosen ones who cry to him  
day and night? Will he delay long  
in helping them? I tell you, he will  
quickly grant justice to them. And  
yet, when the Son of Man comes,  
will he find faith on earth?"

## POST COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ,  
for this sacred feast:  
for here we receive you,  
here the memory of your passion is  
renewed,  
here our minds are filled with grace,  
and here a pledge of future glory is  
given,  
when we shall feast at that table  
where you reign  
with all your saints for ever.

