

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of the
Church is governed and
sanctified:

hear our prayer which we offer for all
your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and
truth
to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and 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 Zechariah 9:9-12

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

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!
Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!
Lo, your king comes to you;
triumphant and victorious is he,
humble and riding on a donkey, on
a colt, the foal of a donkey. He will
cut off the chariot from Ephraim
and the war horse from Jerusalem;
and the battle-bow shall be cut off,
and he shall command peace to the
nations; his dominion shall be from
sea to sea, and from the River to the
ends of the earth. As for you also,
because of the blood of my covenant
with you, I will set your prisoners free
from the waterless pit. Return to your
stronghold, O prisoners of hope;
today I declare that I will restore to
you double.

Or **Genesis 24:34-38. 42-49. 58-end**

PSALM Psalm 145:8-15

R *Great is the Lord and highly to
be praised.*

The Lord is gracious and merciful,
long-suffering and of great goodness.
The Lord is loving to everyone
and his mercy is over all his creatures. **R**

All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your mighty power, **R**

To make known to all peoples your
mighty acts
and the glorious splendour of your
kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting
kingdom;
your dominion endures throughout all
ages. **R**

The Lord is sure in all his words
and faithful in all his deeds.
The Lord upholds all those who fall
and lifts up all those who are bowed
down. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

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

I do not understand my own actions.
For I do not do what I want, but I
do the very thing I hate. Now if I do
what I do not want, I agree that the
law is good. But in fact it is no longer
I that do it, but sin that dwells within
me. For I know that nothing good
dwells within me, that is, in my flesh.
I can will what is right, but I cannot
do it. For I do not do the good I
want, but the evil I do not want is
what I do. Now if I do what I do not
want, it is no longer I that do it, but
sin that dwells within me. So I find it
to be a law that when I want to do
what is good, evil lies close at hand.
For I delight in the law of God in my
inmost self, but I see in my members
another law at war with the law of
my mind, making me captive to the
law of sin that dwells in my members.
Wretched man that I am! Who will
rescue me from this body of death?
Thanks be to God through Jesus
Christ our Lord!

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-end

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

At that time Jesus said, "To what will
I compare this generation?
It is like children sitting in the market-
places and calling to one another,
'We played the flute for you, and
you did not dance; we wailed, and
you did not mourn.' For John came
neither eating nor drinking, and
they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son
of Man came eating and drinking,
and they say, 'Look, a glutton and
a drunkard, a friend of tax-collectors
and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated
by her deeds. I thank you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth, because
you have hidden these things from
the wise and the intelligent and have
revealed them to infants; yes, Father,
for such was your gracious will. All
things have been handed over to me
by my Father; and no one knows the
Son except the Father, and no one
knows the Father except the Son and
anyone to whom the Son chooses
to reveal him. Come to me, all you
that are weary and are carrying heavy
burdens, and I will give you rest. Take
my yoke upon you, and learn from
me; for I am gentle and humble in
heart, and you will find rest for your
souls. For my yoke is easy, and my
burden is light."

POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may be
so peaceably ordered by
your governance,
that your Church may joyfully serve
you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.



Great is the Lord and highly to be praised