

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you show to those who are in error the
light of your truth,
that they may return to the way of
righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted
into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
that they may reject those things
that are contrary to their profession,
and follow all such things as are
agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 17:1-7. 15-16

A reading from the book of Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old,
the LORD appeared to Abram, and
said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk
before me, and be blameless. And I will
make my covenant between me and
you, and will make you exceedingly
numerous." Then Abram fell on his face;
and God said to him, "As for me, this is
my covenant with you: You shall be the
ancestor of a multitude of nations. No
longer shall your name be Abram, but
your name shall be Abraham; for I have
made you the ancestor of a multitude
of nations. I will make you exceedingly
fruitful; and I will make nations of you,
and kings shall come from you. I will
establish my covenant between me
and you, and your offspring after you
throughout their generations, for an
everlasting covenant, to be God to you
and to your offspring after you." God
said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife,
you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah
shall be her name. I will bless her, and
moreover I will give you a son by her.
I will bless her, and she shall give rise
to nations; kings of peoples shall come
from her."

PSALM Psalm 22:22-30

R *All the ends of the earth shall turn to you,
O Lord.*

Praise the Lord, you that fear him;
stand in awe of him, O offspring of Israel;
all you of Jacob's line, give glory.
For he does not despise nor abhor
the poor in their poverty;
neither does he hide his face from them;
but when they cry to him he hears them. **R**

My praise is of him in the great assembly;
I will perform my vows
in the presence of those who worship him.
The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise
him:

"May your heart live for ever!" **R**

All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord,
and all the families of the nations
shall bow before him.
For kingship belongs to the Lord;
he rules over the nations. **R**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship;
all who go down to the dust fall before him.
My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him;
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.
They shall come and make known to a
people yet unborn
the saving deeds that he has done. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 4:13-end

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The promise that he would inherit the
world did not come to Abraham or to
his descendants through the law but
through the righteousness of faith. If it is
the adherents of the law who are to be
the heirs, faith is null and the promise
is void. For the law brings wrath; but
where there is no law, neither is there
violation. For this reason it depends on
faith, in order that the promise may rest
on grace and be guaranteed to all his
descendants, not only to the adherents
of the law but also to those who share
the faith of Abraham (for he is the
father of all of us, as it is written, "I have
made you the father of many nations")
– Abraham believed in the presence
of the God who gives life to the dead
and calls into existence the things that
do not exist. Hoping against hope, he
believed that he would become "the
father of many nations," according to
what was said, "So numerous shall your
descendants be." He did not weaken in
faith when he considered his own body,
which was already as good as dead (for
he was about a hundred years old), or
when he considered the barrenness of
Sarah's womb. No distrust made him
waver concerning the promise of God,
but he grew strong in his faith as he

gave glory to God, being fully convinced
that God was able to do what he had
promised. Therefore his faith "was
reckoned to him as righteousness." Now
the words, "it was reckoned to him,"
were written not for his sake alone, but
for ours also. It will be reckoned to us
who believe in him who raised Jesus our
Lord from the dead, who was handed
over to death for our trespasses and was
raised for our justification.

GOSPEL

Either Mark 8:31-end

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

Jesus began to teach his disciples that
the Son of Man must undergo great
suffering, and be rejected by the elders,
the chief priests, and the scribes, and be
killed, and after three days rise again. He
said all this quite openly. And Peter took
him aside and began to rebuke him. But
turning and looking at his disciples, he
rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind
me, Satan! For you are setting your
mind not on divine things but on human
things." He called the crowd with his
disciples, and said to them, "If any want
to become my followers, let them deny
themselves and take up their cross and
follow me. For those who want to save
their life will lose it, and those who lose
their life for my sake, and for the sake of
the gospel, will save it. For what will it
profit them to gain the whole world and
forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they
give in return for their life? Those who
are ashamed of me and of my words in
this adulterous and sinful generation,
of them the Son of Man will also be
ashamed when he comes in the glory of
his Father with the holy angels."

Or (RCL only) Mark 9:2-9

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
you see that we have no power of
ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all
adversities which may happen to the
body,
and from all evil thoughts which may
assault and hurt the soul;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.