

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy
but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was
crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the
way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life
and peace;
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 Exodus 20:1-17

A reading from the book of Exodus.

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labour and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work – you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honour your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour. You shall not covet your neighbour's house; you shall not covet your neighbour's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbour.

PSALM Psalm 19

R You, Lord, have the words of eternal life.
or

R The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart.

The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the firmament shows his handiwork.
One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to
another.

Although they have no words or
language,
and their voices are not heard,
Their sound has gone out into all lands,
and their message to the ends of the
world. **R**

In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun;
it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his
chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.
It goes forth from the uttermost edge of
the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat. **R**

The law of the Lord is perfect
and revives the soul;
the testimony of the Lord is sure
and gives wisdom to the innocent.
The statutes of the Lord are just
and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear
and gives light to the eyes. **R**

The fear of the Lord is clean
and endures for ever;
the judgements of the Lord are true
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey,
than honey in the comb. **R**

By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.
Who can tell how often he offends?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.
Above all, keep your servant from
presumptuous sins;
let them not get dominion over me;
then shall I be whole and sound,
and innocent of a great offence. **R**

Let the words of my mouth and the
meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. **R**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

The message about the cross is
foolishness to those who are perishing,
but to us who are being saved it is the

power of God. For it is written, "I will
destroy the wisdom of the wise, and
the discernment of the discerning I will
thwart." Where is the one who is wise?
Where is the scribe? Where is the debater
of this age? Has not God made foolish
the wisdom of the world? For since,
in the wisdom of God, the world did
not know God through wisdom, God
decided, through the foolishness of our
proclamation, to save those who believe.
For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire
wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified,
a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness
to Gentiles, but to those who are the
called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the
power of God and the wisdom of God.
For God's foolishness is wiser than human
wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger
than human strength.

GOSPEL John 2:13-22

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

The Passover of the Jews was near, and
Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple
he found people selling cattle, sheep, and
doves, and the money-changers seated at
their tables. Making a whip of cords, he
drove all of them out of the temple, both
the sheep and the cattle. He also poured
out the coins of the money-changers
and overturned their tables. He told
those who were selling the doves, "Take
these things out of here! Stop making
my Father's house a market-place!" His
disciples remembered that it was written,
"Zeal for your house will consume me."
The Jews then said to him, "What sign
can you show us for doing this?" Jesus
answered them, "Destroy this temple,
and in three days I will raise it up." They
then said, "This temple has been under
construction for forty-six years, and will
you raise it up in three days?" But he was
speaking of the temple of his body. After
he was raised from the dead, his disciples
remembered that he had said this; and
they believed the scripture and the word
that Jesus had spoken.

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the
temptations of the world, the flesh and
the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow
you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.