

COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus
Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in
heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not
comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to
strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our
Saviour Christ is gone before,
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 read
as either the First or Second Reading.*

Either Acts 1:15-17. 21-end

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

In those days Peter stood up among
the believers (together the crowd
numbered about one hundred and
twenty people). He said, "Friends,
the scripture had to be fulfilled, which
the Holy Spirit through David foretold
concerning Judas, who became a
guide for those who arrested Jesus
– for he was numbered among us
and was allotted his share in this
ministry. So one of the men who
have accompanied us throughout the
time that the Lord Jesus went in and
out among us, beginning from the
baptism of John until the day when
he was taken up from us – one of
these must become a witness with us
to his resurrection." So they proposed
two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who
was also known as Justus, and
Matthias. Then they prayed and said,
"Lord, you know everyone's heart.
Show us which one of these two you
have chosen to take the place in this
ministry and apostleship from which
Judas turned aside to go to his own
place." And they cast lots for them,
and the lot fell on Matthias; and he
was added to the eleven apostles.

Or Ezekiel 36:24-28

PSALM Psalm 1

R *Happy are they who trust in the
Lord.*

or

R *The Lord knows the way of the
righteous.*

Happy are they who have not walked
in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
Their delight is in the law of the Lord,
and they meditate on his law day and
night. **R**

They are like trees planted by streams
of water,
bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper. **R**

It is not so with the wicked:
they are like chaff which the wind
blows away;
Therefore the wicked shall not stand
upright
when judgement comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the
righteous.
For the Lord knows the way of the
righteous,
but the way of the wicked is
doomed. **R**

SECOND READING

(Alternative readings)

Either 1 John 5:9-13

*A reading from the first letter of
John.*

If we receive human testimony, the
testimony of God is greater; for
this is the testimony of God that
he has testified to his Son. Those
who believe in the Son of God have
the testimony in their hearts. Those
who do not believe in God have
made him a liar by not believing in
the testimony that God has given
concerning his Son. And this is the
testimony: God gave us eternal life,
and this life is in his Son. Whoever
has the Son has life; whoever does
not have the Son of God does not
have life. I write these things to you
who believe in the name of the Son of
God, so that you may know that you
have eternal life.

Or Acts 1:15-17. 21-end

GOSPEL John 17:6-19

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and
prayed: "Father, I have made your

name known to those whom you
gave me from the world. They were
yours, and you gave them to me,
and they have kept your word. Now
they know that everything you have
given me is from you; for the words
that you gave to me I have given to
them, and they have received them
and know in truth that I came from
you; and they have believed that you
sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I
am not asking on behalf of the world,
but on behalf of those whom you
gave me, because they are yours. All
mine are yours, and yours are mine;
and I have been glorified in them.
And now I am no longer in the world,
but they are in the world, and I am
coming to you. Holy Father, protect
them in your name that you have
given me, so that they may be one,
as we are one. While I was with them,
I protected them in your name that
you have given me. I guarded them,
and not one of them was lost except
the one destined to be lost, so that
the scripture might be fulfilled. But
now I am coming to you, and I speak
these things in the world so that they
may have my joy made complete in
themselves. I have given them your
word, and the world has hated them
because they do not belong to the
world, just as I do not belong to the
world. I am not asking you to take
them out of the world, but I ask you
to protect them from the evil one.
They do not belong to the world,
just as I do not belong to the world.
Sanctify them in the truth; your word
is truth. As you have sent me into the
world, so I have sent them into the
world. And for their sakes I sanctify
myself, so that they also may be
sanctified in truth."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into
all the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we
proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.