

COLLECT

O God,
the strength of all those who put their
trust in you,
mercifully accept our prayers
and, because through the weakness of
our mortal nature
we can do no good thing without you,
grant us the help of your grace,
that in the keeping of your
commandments
we may please you both in will and
deed;
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 3:8-15

A reading from the book of Genesis.

The man and the woman heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

PSALM Psalm 130

R With the Lord there is mercy
and plenteous redemption.

Out of the depths have I called to you,
O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of
my supplication.

If you, Lord, were to note what is done
amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared. **R**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for
him;
in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord,
more than the night-watch for the
morning,
more than the night-watch for the
morning. **R**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;
With him there is plenteous
redemption,
and he shall redeem Israel from all
their sins. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 4:13 – 5:1

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

Just as we have the same spirit of faith
that is in accordance with scripture –
"I believed, and so I spoke" – we also
believe, and so we speak, because
we know that the one who raised the
Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus,
and will bring us with you into his
presence. Yes, everything is for your
sake, so that grace, as it extends to
more and more people, may increase
thanksgiving, to the glory of God. So
we do not lose heart. Even though our
outer nature is wasting away, our inner
nature is being renewed day by day.
For this slight momentary affliction is
preparing us for an eternal weight of
glory beyond all measure, because we
look not at what can be seen but at
what cannot be seen; for what can be
seen is temporary, but what cannot
be seen is eternal. For we know that if
the earthly tent we live in is destroyed,
we have a building from God, a house
not made with hands, eternal in the
heavens.

GOSPEL Mark 3:20-end

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

The crowd came together again, so
that Jesus and his companions could
not even eat. When his family heard
it, they went out to restrain him, for

people were saying, "He has gone
out of his mind." And the scribes who
came down from Jerusalem said, "He
has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the
demons he casts out demons." And he
called them to him, and spoke to them
in parables, "How can Satan cast out
Satan? If a kingdom is divided against
itself, that kingdom cannot stand. And if
a house is divided against itself, that
house will not be able to stand. And if
Satan has risen up against himself and
is divided, he cannot stand, but his
end has come. But no one can enter
a strong man's house and plunder his
property without first tying up the
strong man; then indeed the house
can be plundered. Truly I tell you,
people will be forgiven for their sins
and whatever blasphemies they utter;
but whoever blasphemes against the
Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness,
but is guilty of an eternal sin" – for
they had said, "He has an unclean
spirit." Then his mother and his
brothers came; and standing outside,
they sent to him and called him. A
crowd was sitting around him; and
they said to him, "Your mother and
your brothers and sisters are outside,
asking for you." And he replied, "Who
are my mother and my brothers?" And
looking at those who sat around him,
he said, "Here are my mother and
my brothers! Whoever does the will
of God is my brother and sister and
mother."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal Father,
we thank you for nourishing us
with these heavenly gifts:
may our communion strengthen us in
faith,
build us up in hope,
and make us grow in love;
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.