

COLLECT

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us,
and with great might succour us;
that whereas, through our sins and
wickedness
we are grievously hindered
in running the race that is set before
us,
your bountiful grace and mercy
may speedily help and deliver us;
through Jesus Christ your Son our
Lord,
to whom with you and the Holy Spirit,
be honour and glory, now and for
ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 40:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God. Speak tenderly to
Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has
served her term, that her penalty is
paid, that she has received from the
Lord's hand double for all her sins.
A voice cries out: "In the wilderness
prepare the way of the LORD, make
straight in the desert a highway for
our God. Every valley shall be lifted
up, and every mountain and hill be
made low; the uneven ground shall
become level, and the rough places
a plain. Then the glory of the LORD
shall be revealed, and all people shall
see it together, for the mouth of the
LORD has spoken." A voice says, "Cry
out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass, their constancy is
like the flower of the field. The grass
withers, the flower fades, when the
breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass. The grass
withers, the flower fades; but the
word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up
your voice with strength, O Jerusalem,
herald of good tidings, lift it up, do
not fear; say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!" See, the Lord
GOD comes with might, and his arm
rules for him; his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him. He
will feed his flock like a shepherd; he
will gather the lambs in his arms, and
carry them in his bosom, and gently
lead the mother sheep.

PSALM Psalm 85:1-2. 8-end

R Show us your mercy, O Lord,
and grant us your salvation.

You have been gracious to your land,
O Lord,
you have restored the good fortune of
Jacob.
You have forgiven the iniquity of your
people
and blotted out all their sins. **R**

I will listen to what the Lord God is
saying,
for he is speaking peace to his faithful
people
and to those who turn their hearts to
him.
Truly, his salvation is very near to
those who fear him,
that his glory may dwell in our land. **R**

Mercy and truth have met together;
righteousness and peace have kissed
each other.

Truth shall spring up from the earth,
and righteousness shall look down
from heaven. **R**

The Lord will indeed grant prosperity,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness shall go before him,
and peace shall be a pathway for his
feet. **R**

SECOND READING 2 Peter 3:8-15a

A reading from the second letter of Peter.

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved,
that with the Lord one day is like
a thousand years, and a thousand
years are like one day. The Lord is
not slow about his promise, as some
think of slowness, but is patient with
you, not wanting any to perish, but all
to come to repentance. But the day
of the Lord will come like a thief, and
then the heavens will pass away with
a loud noise, and the elements will be
dissolved with fire, and the earth and
everything that is done on it will be
disclosed. Since all these things are
to be dissolved in this way, what sort
of persons ought you to be in leading
lives of holiness and godliness,
waiting for and hastening the coming
of the day of God, because of which
the heavens will be set ablaze and
dissolved, and the elements will melt
with fire? But, in accordance with his

promise, we wait for new heavens and
a new earth, where righteousness is
at home. Therefore, beloved, while
you are waiting for these things, strive
to be found by him at peace, without
spot or blemish; and regard the
patience of our Lord as salvation.

GOSPEL Mark 1:1-8

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

The beginning of the good news of
Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is
written in the prophet Isaiah, "See,
I am sending my messenger ahead
of you, who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the
wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the
Lord, make his paths straight,'" John the baptiser appeared in the
wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of
repentance for the forgiveness of sins.
And people from the whole Judean
countryside and all the people of
Jerusalem were going out to him,
and were baptised by him in the river
Jordan, confessing their sins. Now
John was clothed with camel's hair,
with a leather belt around his waist,
and he ate locusts and wild honey.
He proclaimed, "The one who is more
powerful than I is coming after me;
I am not worthy to stoop down and
untie the thong of his sandals. I have
baptised you with water; but he will
baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

POST COMMUNION

Father in heaven,
who sent your Son to redeem the
world
and will send him again to be our
judge:
give us grace so to imitate him
in the humility and purity of his
first coming
that, when he comes again,
we may be ready to greet him
with joyful love and firm faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.