

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 Hosea 5:15 – 6:6

A reading from the book of the prophet Hosea.

I will return again to my place until they
acknowledge their guilt and seek my
face. In their distress they will beg my
favour: Come, let us return to the Lord;
for it is he who has torn, and he will
heal us; he has struck down, and he will
bind us up. After two days he will revive
us; on the third day he will raise us up,
that we may live before him. Let us
know, let us press on to know the Lord;
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;
he will come to us like the showers, like
the spring rains that water the earth.
What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?
What shall I do with you, O Judah? Your
love is like a morning cloud, like the
dew that goes away early. Therefore I
have hewn them by the prophets, I have
killed them by the words of my mouth,
and my judgement goes forth as the
light. For I desire steadfast love and not
sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather
than burnt-offerings.

PSALM Psalm 50:7-15

R *The Lord will show his salvation to the
upright.*

Hear, O my people, and I will speak:
"O Israel, I will bear witness against
you;
for I am God, your God.
I do not accuse you because of your
sacrifices;
your offerings are always before me. **R**

I will take no bull-calf from your stalls,
nor he-goats out of your pens;
For the beasts of the forest are mine,
the herds in their thousands upon the
hills.

I know every bird in the sky,
and the creatures of the fields are in my
sight. **R**

If I were hungry, I would not tell you,
for the whole world is mine and all that
is in it.

Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls,
or drink the blood of goats?
Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving
and make good your vows to the Most
High.

Call upon me in the day of trouble;
I will deliver you and you shall honour
me." **R**

SECOND READING Romans 4.13-end

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Romans.*

The promise that Abraham 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 God who raised Jesus our
Lord from the dead, who was handed
over to death for our trespasses and was
raised for our justification.

GOSPEL Matthew 9:9-13. 18-26

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

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a
man called Matthew sitting at the tax
booth; and he said to him, "Follow me."
And he got up and followed him. And
as he sat at dinner in the house, many
tax-collectors and sinners came and
were sitting with him and his disciples.
When the Pharisees saw this, they said
to his disciples, "Why does your teacher
eat with tax-collectors and sinners?" But
when he heard this, he said, "Those who
are well have no need of a physician, but
those who are sick. Go and learn what
this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.'
For I have come to call not the righteous
but sinners." While he was saying these
things to them, suddenly a leader of the
synagogue came in and knelt before
him, saying, "My daughter has just
died; but come and lay your hand on
her, and she will live." And Jesus got
up and followed him, with his disciples.
Then suddenly a woman who had been
suffering from haemorrhages for twelve
years came up behind him and touched
the fringe of his cloak, for she said to
herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be
made well." Jesus turned, and seeing
her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your
faith has made you well." And instantly
the woman was made well. When Jesus
came to the leader's house and saw the
flute-players and the crowd making a
commotion, he said, "Go away; for the
girl is not dead but sleeping." And they
laughed at him. But when the crowd had
been put outside, he went in and took
her by the hand, and the girl got up.
And the report of this spread throughout
that district.

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.