

COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are
nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most
excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all
virtues,
without which whoever lives is
counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus
Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Either **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."

Or **1 Samuel 8:4-11 [12-15]**

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

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the
supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.