

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son  
Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us  
the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before  
us you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

*The reading from Acts must be read as either the First or Second Reading.*

Either **Acts 8:26-end**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip,  
"Get up and go toward the south to the  
road that goes down from Jerusalem  
to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)  
So he got up and went. Now there was  
an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of  
the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians,  
in charge of her entire treasury. He had  
come to Jerusalem to worship and was  
returning home; seated in his chariot,  
he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then  
the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this  
chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to  
it and heard him reading the prophet  
Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand  
what you are reading?" He replied, "How  
can I, unless someone guides me?" And  
he invited Philip to get in and sit beside  
him. Now the passage of the scripture  
that he was reading was this: "Like a  
sheep he was led to the slaughter, and  
like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth. In his  
humiliation justice was denied him. Who  
can describe his generation? For his life is  
taken away from the earth." The eunuch  
asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask  
you, does the prophet say this, about  
himself or about someone else?" Then  
Philip began to speak, and starting with  
this scripture, he proclaimed to him the  
good news about Jesus. As they were  
going along the road, they came to some  
water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here  
is water! What is to prevent me from  
being baptized?" He commanded the  
chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip  
and the eunuch, went down into the  
water, and Philip baptized him. When  
they came up out of the water, the Spirit  
of the Lord snatched Philip away; the

eunuch saw him no more, and went on  
his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself  
at Azotus, and as he was passing through  
the region, he proclaimed the good  
news to all the towns until he came to  
Caesarea.

Or **Baruch 3:9-15. 32 – 4:4**

Or **Genesis 22:1-18**

## PSALM Psalm 22:25-end

**R** *All the ends of the earth shall turn to  
you, O Lord.*

My praise is of him in the great assembly,  
I will perform my vows  
in the presence of those who worship  
him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise  
him:

"May your heart live for ever!" **R**

All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord;  
he rules over the nations. **R**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth  
bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before  
him.

My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.  
They shall come and make known to a  
people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that he has done. **R**

## SECOND READING

Either **1 John 4:7-end**

*A reading from the first letter of John.*

Beloved, let us love one another, because  
love is from God; everyone who loves is  
born of God and knows God. Whoever  
does not love does not know God, for  
God is love. God's love was revealed  
among us in this way: God sent his only  
Son into the world so that we might live  
through him. In this is love, not that we  
loved God but that he loved us and sent  
his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for  
our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so  
much, we also ought to love one another.  
No one has ever seen God; if we love one  
another, God lives in us, and his love is  
perfected in us. By this we know that we  
abide in him and he in us, because he has  
given us of his Spirit. And we have seen  
and do testify that the Father has sent  
his Son as the Saviour of the world. God

abides in those who confess that Jesus is  
the Son of God, and they abide in God.  
So we have known and believe the love  
that God has for us. God is love, and  
those who abide in love abide in God,  
and God abides in them. Love has been  
perfected among us in this: that we may  
have boldness on the day of judgement,  
because as he is, so are we in this world.  
There is no fear in love, but perfect love  
casts out fear; for fear has to do with  
punishment, and whoever fears has not  
reached perfection in love. We love  
because he first loved us. Those who say,  
"I love God," and hate their brothers or  
sisters, are liars; for those who do not love  
a brother or sister whom they have seen,  
cannot love God whom they have not  
seen. The commandment we have from  
him is this: those who love God must love  
their brothers and sisters also.

Or **Acts 8:26-end**

## GOSPEL John 15:1-8

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true  
vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.  
He removes every branch in me that  
bears no fruit. Every branch that bears  
fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.  
You have already been cleansed by the  
word that I have spoken to you. Abide in  
me as I abide in you. Just as the branch  
cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides  
in the vine, neither can you unless you  
abide in me. I am the vine, you are the  
branches. Those who abide in me and I  
in them bear much fruit, because apart  
from me you can do nothing. Whoever  
does not abide in me is thrown away  
like a branch and withers; such branches  
are gathered, thrown into the fire, and  
burned. If you abide in me, and my words  
abide in you, ask for whatever you wish,  
and it will be done for you. My Father is  
glorified by this, that you bear much fruit  
and become my disciples."

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the  
truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.