

## COLLECT

Merciful God,  
you have prepared for those who love you  
such good things as pass our  
understanding:  
pour into our hearts such love toward you  
that we, loving you in all things and above  
all things,  
may obtain your promises,  
which exceed all that we can desire;  
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 18:20-32

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*  
The LORD appeared to Abraham by the  
oaks of Mamre and said, "How great is  
the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah  
and how very grave their sin! I must go  
down and see whether they have done  
altogether according to the outcry that  
has come to me; and if not, I will know."  
So the men turned from there, and  
went towards Sodom, while Abraham  
remained standing before the LORD.  
Then Abraham came near and said, "Will  
you indeed sweep away the righteous  
with the wicked? Suppose there are fifty  
righteous within the city; will you then  
sweep away the place and not forgive it  
for the fifty righteous who are in it? Far  
be it from you to do such a thing, to slay  
the righteous with the wicked, so that the  
righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that  
from you! Shall not the Judge of all the  
earth do what is just?" And the LORD  
said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in  
the city, I will forgive the whole place for  
their sake." Abraham answered, "Let me  
take it upon myself to speak to the Lord,  
I who am but dust and ashes. Suppose  
five of the fifty righteous are lacking?  
Will you destroy the whole city for lack of  
five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it  
if I find forty five there." Again Abraham  
spoke to the LORD, "Suppose forty are  
found there." He answered, "For the sake  
of forty I will not do it." Then Abraham  
said, "Oh do not let the Lord be angry if  
I speak. Suppose thirty are found there."  
The LORD answered, "I will not do it, if I  
find thirty there." Abraham said, "Let me  
take it upon myself to speak to the Lord.  
Suppose twenty are found there." The  
LORD answered, "For the sake of twenty  
I will not destroy it." Then he said, "Oh  
do not let the Lord be angry if I speak just  
once more. Suppose ten are found there."  
The LORD answered, "For the sake of ten  
I will not destroy it."

Or **Hosea 1:2-10**

## PSALM Psalm 138

**R** When I called, you answered me,  
O Lord.

I will give thanks to you, O Lord, with my  
whole heart;  
before the gods I will sing your praise.  
I will bow down towards your holy temple  
and praise your name,  
because of your love and faithfulness;  
For you have glorified your name  
and your word above all things. **R**

When I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength within me.  
All the kings of the earth will praise you,  
O Lord,  
when they have heard the words of your  
mouth.

They will sing of the ways of the Lord,  
that great is the glory of the Lord.  
Though the Lord be high, he cares for the  
lowly;  
he perceives the haughty from afar. **R**

Though I walk in the midst of trouble,  
you keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand  
against the fury of my enemies;  
your right hand shall save me.  
The Lord will make good his purpose for  
me;  
O Lord, your love endures for ever;  
do not abandon the works of your hands. **R**

## SECOND READING

(Short or long reading)

**Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.*  
Brothers and sisters, as you have received  
Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your  
lives in him, rooted and built up in him  
and established in the faith, just as you  
were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.  
See to it that no one takes you captive  
through philosophy and empty deceit,  
according to human tradition, according  
to the elemental spirits of the universe,  
and not according to Christ. For in him  
the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily,  
and you have come to fullness in him, who  
is the head of every ruler and authority.  
In him also you were circumcised with  
a spiritual circumcision, by putting off  
the body of the flesh in the circumcision  
of Christ; when you were buried with  
him in baptism, you were also raised  
with him through faith in the power of  
God, who raised him from the dead.  
And when you were dead in trespasses  
and the uncircumcision of your flesh,  
God made you alive together with him,  
when he forgave us all our trespasses,  
erasing the record that stood against  
us with its legal demands. He set this

aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed  
the rulers and authorities and made a  
public example of them, triumphing over  
them in it. [Therefore do not let anyone  
condemn you in matters of food and drink  
or of observing festivals, new moons,  
or sabbaths. These are only a shadow  
of what is to come, but the substance  
belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone  
disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement  
and worship of angels, dwelling on  
visions, puffed up without cause by a  
human way of thinking, and not holding  
fast to the head, from whom the whole  
body, nourished and held together by its  
ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth  
that is from God.]

## GOSPEL Luke 11:1-13

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

Jesus was praying in a certain place, and  
after he had finished, one of his disciples  
said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray,  
as John taught his disciples." He said  
to them, "When you pray, say: Father,  
hallowed be your name. Your kingdom  
come. Give us each day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves  
forgive everyone indebted to us. And do  
not bring us to the time of trial." And he  
said to them, "Suppose one of you has a  
friend, and you go to him at midnight and  
say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves  
of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived,  
and I have nothing to set before him.' And  
he answers from within, 'Do not bother  
me; the door has already been locked,  
and my children are with me in bed; I  
cannot get up and give you anything.' I  
tell you, even though he will not get up  
and give him anything because he is his  
friend, at least because of his persistence  
he will get up and give him whatever he  
needs. So I say to you, Ask, and it will be  
given to you; search, and you will find;  
knock, and the door will be opened for  
you. For everyone who asks receives,  
and everyone who searches finds, and  
for everyone who knocks, the door will  
be opened. Is there anyone among you  
who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a  
snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks  
for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you  
then, who are evil, know how to give good  
gifts to your children, how much more will  
the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to  
those who ask him!"

## POST COMMUNION

God of our pilgrimage,  
you have led us to the living water:  
refresh and sustain us  
as we go forward on our journey,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.