

## 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 used as either the First or Second reading.*

### Either Acts 11:1-18

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?" Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.' And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And

I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

Or **Baruch 3:9-15. 32 – 4:4** or  
**Genesis 22:1-18**

## PSALM Psalm 148

**R** *Praise, O praise the name of the Lord.*

Alleluia!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;

praise him in the heights.

Praise him, all you angels of his;

praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon;

praise him, all you shining stars. **R**

Praise him, heaven of heavens,  
and you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord;  
for he commanded and they were  
created.

He made them stand fast for ever and  
ever;

he gave them a law which shall not pass  
away. **R**

Praise the Lord from the earth,  
you sea-monsters and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and fog,  
tempestuous wind, doing his will;  
Mountains and all hills,  
fruit trees and all cedars;  
Wild beasts and all cattle,  
creeping things and winged birds. **R**

Kings of the earth and all peoples,  
princes and all rulers of the world;  
Young men and maidens,  
old and young together.

Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
for his name only is exalted,  
his splendour is over earth and heaven. **R**

He has raised up strength for his people  
and praise for all his loyal servants,  
the children of Israel, a people who are  
near him.

Alleluia! **R**

## SECOND READING

**Revelation 21:1-6**

*A reading from the book of Revelation.*

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new  
earth; for the first heaven and the first  
earth had passed away, and the sea was

no more. And I saw the holy city, the  
new Jerusalem, coming down out of  
heaven from God, prepared as a bride  
adorned for her husband. And I heard  
a loud voice from the throne saying,  
"See, the home of God is among  
mortals. He will dwell with them; they  
will be his peoples, and God himself will  
be with them; he will wipe every tear  
from their eyes. Death will be no more;  
mourning and crying and pain will be no  
more, for the first things have passed  
away." And the one who was seated on  
the throne said, "See, I am making all  
things new." Also he said, "Write this,  
for these words are trustworthy and  
true." Then he said to me, "It is done!  
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the  
beginning and the end. To the thirsty I  
will give water as a gift from the spring  
of the water of life."

## GOSPEL John 13:31-35

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

During the supper, when Judas had  
gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of  
Man has been glorified, and God has  
been glorified in him. If God has been  
glorified in him, God will also glorify  
him in himself and will glorify him at  
once. Little children, I am with you only  
a little longer. You will look for me; and  
as I said to the Jews so now I say to  
you, 'Where I am going, you cannot  
come.' I give you a new commandment,  
that you love one another. Just as I have  
loved you, you also should love one  
another. By this everyone will know that  
you are my disciples, if you have love  
for one another."

## 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.