

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose Son Jesus Christ is the
resurrection and the life:
raise us, who trust in him,
from the death of sin to the life of
righteousness,
that we may seek those things which
are above,
where he reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)

The reading from Acts must be used
as either the first or the second
reading.

Either Acts 9:36-end

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

In Joppa there was a disciple whose
name was Tabitha, which in Greek
is Dorcas. She was devoted to good
works and acts of charity. At that time
she became ill and died. When they
had washed her, they laid her in a
room upstairs. Since Lydda was near
Joppa, the disciples, who heard that
Peter was there, sent two men to him
with the request, "Please come to us
without delay." So Peter got up and
went with them; and when he arrived,
they took him to the room upstairs.
All the widows stood beside him,
weeping and showing tunics and other
clothing that Dorcas had made while
she was with them. Peter put all of
them outside, and then he knelt down
and prayed. He turned to the body
and said, "Tabitha, get up." Then she
opened her eyes, and seeing Peter,
she sat up. He gave her his hand and
helped her up. Then calling the saints
and widows, he showed her to be
alive. This became known throughout
Joppa, and many believed in the
Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa
for some time with a certain Simon, a
tanner.

Or Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13

PSALM Psalm 23

R *I will dwell in your house for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green
pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of
the shadow of death, I will fear no
evil;

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort
me. **R**

You spread a table before me
in the presence of those who trouble
me;

you have anointed my head with oil
and my cup shall be full.

Surely goodness and loving mercy
shall follow me all the days of my
life,

and I will dwell in the house of the
Lord for ever. **R**

SECOND READING

Revelation 7:9-end

*A reading from the book of
Revelation.*

After this I looked, and there was a
great multitude that no one could
count, from every nation, from all
tribes and peoples and languages,
standing before the throne and before
the Lamb, robed in white, with palm
branches in their hands. They cried
out in a loud voice, saying "Salvation
belongs to our God who is seated
on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

And all the angels stood around the
throne and around the elders and
the four living creatures, and they fell
on their faces before the throne and
worshipped God, singing, "Amen!
Blessing and glory and wisdom and
thanksgiving and honour and power
and might be to our God for ever and
ever! Amen." Then one of the elders
addressed me, saying, "Who are
these, robed in white, and where have
they come from?" I said to him, "Sir,

you are the one that knows." Then
he said to me, "These are they who
have come out of the great ordeal;
they have washed their robes and
made them white in the blood of the
Lamb. For this reason they are before
the throne of God, and worship him
day and night within his temple, and
the one who is seated on the throne
will shelter them. They will hunger no
more, and thirst no more; the sun will
not strike them, nor any scorching
heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the
throne will be their shepherd, and he
will guide them to springs of the water
of life, and God will wipe away every
tear from their eyes."

GOSPEL John 10:22-30

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

At that time the festival of the
Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It
was winter, and Jesus was walking in
the temple, in the portico of Solomon.
So the Jews gathered around him and
said to him, "How long will you keep
us in suspense? If you are the Messiah,
tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I
have told you, and you do not believe.
The works that I do in my Father's
name testify to me; but you do not
believe, because you do not belong to
my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I
know them, and they follow me. I give
them eternal life, and they will never
perish. No one will snatch them out of
my hand. What my Father has given
me is greater than all else, and no one
can snatch it out of the Father's hand.
The Father and I are one."

POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be
the good shepherd,
and in his love for us to lay down his
life and rise again:
keep us always under his protection,
and give us grace to follow in his
steps;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

