

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin
Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his
coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
"Ask a sign of the LORD your God;
let it be deep as Sheol or high as
heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not
ask, and I will not put the LORD to
the test." Then Isaiah said: "Hear
then, O house of David! Is it too
little for you to weary mortals, that
you weary my God also? Therefore
the Lord himself will give you a sign.
Look, the young woman is with child
and shall bear a son, and shall name
him Immanuel. He shall eat curds
and honey by the time he knows
how to refuse the evil and choose
the good. For before the child
knows how to refuse the evil and
choose the good, the land before
whose two kings you are in dread
will be deserted."

PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20

[80:1-8]
R Turn us again, O God;
show the light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are enthroned
upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and
Manasseh.

Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation. **R**

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your
people's prayer?
You feed them with the bread of
tears;
you give them abundance of tears
to drink.
You have made us the derision of
our neighbours
and our enemies laugh us to
scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man at
your right hand,
the son of man you made so strong
for yourself.
And so will we not go back from
you;
give us life, and we shall call upon
your name. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle, set apart
for the gospel of God, which he
promised beforehand through his
prophets in the holy scriptures, the
gospel concerning his Son, who was
descended from David according
to the flesh and was declared
to be Son of God with power
according to the spirit of holiness by
resurrection from the dead, Jesus
Christ our Lord. Through Christ we
have received grace and apostleship
to bring about the obedience of
faith among all the Gentiles for
the sake of his name, including
yourselves who are called to
belong to Jesus Christ, To all God's
beloved in Rome, who are called to
be saints: Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah
took place in this way. When his
mother Mary had been engaged
to Joseph, but before they lived
together, she was found to be
with child from the Holy Spirit. Her
husband Joseph, being a righteous
man and unwilling to expose her to
public disgrace, planned to dismiss
her quietly. But just when he had
resolved to do this, an angel of the
Lord appeared to him in a dream
and said, "Joseph, son of David, do
not be afraid to take Mary as your
wife, for the child conceived in her
is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear
a son, and you are to name him
Jesus, for he will save his people
from their sins." All this took place
to fulfil what had been spoken
by the Lord through the prophet:
"Look, the virgin shall conceive and
bear a son, and they shall name him
Emmanuel," which means, "God
is with us." When Joseph awoke
from sleep, he did as the angel of
the Lord commanded him; he took
her as his wife, but had no marital
relations with her until she had
borne a son; and he named him
Jesus.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised
saviour:
fill us your servants with your grace,
that in all things we may embrace
your holy will
and with her rejoice in your
salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

