

COLLECT

Eternal Father,
 whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to
 the throne of heaven
 that he might rule over all things as
 Lord and King;
 keep the Church in the unity of the
 Spirit
 and in the bond of peace,
 and bring the whole created order to
 worship at his feet;
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Woe to the shepherds who destroy
 and scatter the sheep of my pasture!
 says the LORD. Therefore thus says the
 LORD, the God of Israel, concerning
 the shepherds who shepherd my
 people: It is you who have scattered
 my flock, and have driven them away,
 and you have not attended to them. So
 I will attend to you for your evil doings,
 says the LORD. Then I myself will
 gather the remnant of my flock out of
 all the lands where I have driven them,
 and I will bring them back to their fold,
 and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I
 will raise up shepherds over them who
 will shepherd them, and they shall not
 fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor
 shall any be missing, says the LORD.
 The days are surely coming, says the
 LORD, when I will raise up for David a
 righteous Branch, and he shall reign as
 king and deal wisely, and shall execute
 justice and righteousness in the land. In
 his days Judah will be saved and Israel
 will live in safety. And this is the name
 by which he will be called: "The LORD
 is our righteousness."

PSALM Psalm 46

R *The Lord of hosts is with us;
 the God of Jacob is our stronghold.*

God is our refuge and strength,
 a very present help in trouble;



Therefore we will not fear, though the
 earth be moved,
 and though the mountains tremble in
 the heart of the sea; **R**

Though the waters rage and swell,
 and though the mountains quake at
 the towering seas.

There is a river whose streams make
 glad the city of God,
 the holy place of the dwelling of the
 Most High. **R**

God is in the midst of her;
 therefore shall she not be removed;
 God shall help her at the break of day.
 The nations are in uproar and the
 kingdoms are shaken,
 but God utters his voice and the earth
 shall melt away. **R**

Come and behold the works of the
 Lord,
 what destruction he has wrought upon
 the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the
 world;
 he shatters the bow and snaps the
 spear
 and burns the chariots in the fire.
 "Be still, and know that I am God;
 I will be exalted among the nations;
 I will be exalted in the earth." **R**

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:11-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.

Brothers and sisters: May you be made
 strong with all the strength that comes
 from his glorious power, and may you
 be prepared to endure everything with
 patience, while joyfully giving thanks
 to the Father, who has enabled you to
 share in the inheritance of the saints in
 the light. He has rescued us from the
 power of darkness and transferred us
 into the kingdom of his beloved Son,
 in whom we have redemption, the
 forgiveness of sins. He is the image
 of the invisible God, the firstborn of
 all creation; for in him all things in
 heaven and on earth were created,
 things visible and invisible, whether
 thrones or dominions or rulers or
 powers – all things have been created

through him and for him. He himself is
 before all things, and in him all things
 hold together. He is the head of the
 body, the church; he is the beginning,
 the firstborn from the dead, so that
 he might come to have first place in
 everything. For in him all the fullness of
 God was pleased to dwell, and through
 him God was pleased to reconcile to
 himself all things, whether on earth or
 in heaven, by making peace through
 the blood of his cross.

GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43

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

When they came to the place that is
 called The Skull, they crucified Jesus
 there with the criminals, one on his
 right and one on his left. Then Jesus
 said, "Father, forgive them; for they do
 not know what they are doing." And
 they cast lots to divide his clothing.
 And the people stood by, watching;
 but the leaders scoffed at him, saying,
 "He saved others; let him save himself
 if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen
 one!" The soldiers also mocked him,
 coming up and offering him sour wine,
 and saying, "If you are the King of the
 Jews, save yourself!" There was also an
 inscription over him, "This is the King
 of the Jews." One of the criminals who
 were hanged there kept deriding him
 and saying, "Are you not the Messiah?
 Save yourself and us!" But the other
 rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear
 God, since you are under the same
 sentence of condemnation? And we
 indeed have been condemned justly,
 for we are getting what we deserve
 for our deeds, but this man has done
 nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus,
 remember me when you come into
 your kingdom." Jesus replied, "Truly
 I tell you, today you will be with me in
 Paradise."

POST COMMUNION

Stir up, O Lord,
 the wills of your faithful people;
 that they, plenteously bringing forth
 the fruit of good works,
 may by you be plenteously rewarded;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

