

**COLLECT**

O God the King of glory,  
 you have exalted your only Son Jesus  
 Christ  
 with great triumph to your kingdom in  
 heaven:  
 we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
 but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
 and exalt us to the place where our Saviour  
 Christ is gone before,  
 who is alive and 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 second reading.

**Acts 1:6-14**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

When the apostles had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up towards heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up towards heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven." Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day's journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

Or **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

**PSALM**

**Psalm 68:1-10. 32-end (or 68:1-10)**

**R** Sing to God, sing praises to his name.

Let God arise and let his enemies be scattered;  
 let those that hate him flee before him.  
 As the smoke vanishes, so may they vanish away;



Sing - to God, sing prai-ses to his name.

as wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked  
 perish at the presence of God. **R**

But let the righteous be glad and rejoice  
 before God;  
 let them make merry with gladness.  
 Sing to God, sing praises to his name;  
 exalt him who rides on the clouds.  
 The Lord is his name; rejoice before him. **R**

Father of the fatherless, defender of  
 widows,  
 God in his holy habitation!  
 God gives the solitary a home  
 and brings forth prisoners to songs of  
 welcome,  
 but the rebellious inhabit a burning desert. **R**

O God, when you went forth before your  
 people,  
 when you marched through the wilderness,  
 The earth shook and the heavens dropped  
 down rain, at the presence of God, the  
 Lord of Sinai,  
 at the presence of God, the God of  
 Israel. **R**

You sent down a gracious rain, O God;  
 you refreshed your inheritance when it was  
 weary.  
 Your people came to dwell there;  
 in your goodness, O God, you provide for  
 the poor. **R**

Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth;  
 make music in praise of the Lord;  
 He rides on the ancient heaven of heavens  
 and sends forth his voice, a mighty voice. **R**

Ascribe power to God, whose splendour is  
 over Israel,  
 whose power is above the clouds.  
 How terrible is God in his holy sanctuary,  
 the God of Israel, who gives power and  
 strength to his people!  
 Blessed be God. **R**

**SECOND READING**

(Alternative readings)

**Either 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*A reading from the first letter of Peter.*

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery  
 ordeal that is taking place among you to  
 test you, as though something strange  
 were happening to you. But rejoice in so  
 far as you are sharing Christ's sufferings,  
 so that you may also be glad and shout  
 for joy when his glory is revealed. If you  
 are reviled for the name of Christ, you are  
 blessed, because the spirit of glory, which  
 is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.  
 Humble yourselves therefore under the  
 mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt  
 you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on  
 him, because he cares for you. Discipline  
 yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion

your adversary the devil prowls around,  
 looking for someone to devour. Resist him,  
 steadfast in your faith, for you know that  
 your brothers and sisters throughout the  
 world are undergoing the same kinds of  
 suffering. And after you have suffered for  
 a little while, the God of all grace, who has  
 called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will  
 himself restore, support, strengthen, and  
 establish you. To him be the power for ever  
 and ever. Amen.

Or **Acts 1:6-14** (as above)

**GOSPEL John 17:1-11**

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and said,  
 "Father, the hour has come; glorify your  
 Son so that the Son may glorify you, since  
 you have given him authority over all  
 people, to give eternal life to all whom  
 you have given him. And this is eternal  
 life, that they may know you, the only true  
 God, and Jesus Christ whom you have  
 sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing  
 the work that you gave me to do. So now,  
 Father, glorify me in your own presence  
 with the glory that I had in your presence  
 before the world existed. I have made your  
 name known to those whom you gave me  
 from the world. They were yours, and you  
 gave them to me, and they have kept your  
 word. Now they know that everything you  
 have given me is from you; for the words  
 that you gave to me I have given to them,  
 and they have received them and know in  
 truth that I came from you; and they have  
 believed that you sent me. I am asking on  
 their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of  
 the world, but on behalf of those whom  
 you gave me, because they are yours. All  
 mine are yours, and yours are mine; and  
 I have been glorified in them. And now I  
 am no longer in the world, but they are in  
 the world, and I am coming to you. Holy  
 Father, protect them in your name that you  
 have given me, so that they may be one,  
 as we are one."

**POST COMMUNION**

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
 your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all  
 the world  
 to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
 confirm us in this mission,  
 and help us to live the good news we  
 proclaim;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.

