

### COLLECT

O God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust  
in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our  
mortal nature  
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

### FIRST READING Isaiah 65:1-9

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

The word of the Lord through the prophet:  
I was ready to be sought out by those who  
did not ask, to be found by those who did  
not seek me. I said, "Here  
I am, here I am," to a nation that did not  
call on my name. I held out my hands all  
day long to a rebellious people, who walk  
in a way that is not good, following their  
own devices; a people who provoke me to  
my face continually, sacrificing in gardens  
and offering incense on bricks; who sit  
inside tombs, and spend the night in secret  
places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth  
of abominable things in their vessels; who  
say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near  
me, for I am too holy for you." These are  
a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns  
all day long. See, it is written before me:  
I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will  
indeed repay into their laps their iniquities  
and their ancestors' iniquities together, says  
the LORD; because they offered incense on  
the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I  
will measure into their laps full payment for  
their actions. Thus says the LORD: As the  
wine is found in the cluster, and they say,  
"Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing  
in it," so I will do for my servants' sake,  
and not destroy them all. I will bring forth  
descendants from Jacob, and from Judah  
inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall  
inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

### PSALM Psalm 22:19-28

**R** *Be not far from me, O Lord.*

Be not far from me, O Lord;  
you are my strength; hasten to help me.  
Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my poor life from the power of the dog.



Be not far from me, O Lord.

Save me from the lion's mouth,  
from the horns of wild oxen.  
You have answered me! **R**

I will tell of your name to my people;  
in the midst of the congregation will I praise  
you.

Praise the Lord, you that fear him;  
O seed of Jacob, glorify him;  
stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel. **R**

For he has not despised nor abhorred the  
suffering of the poor;  
neither has he hidden his face from them;  
but when they cried to him he heard them.

From you comes my praise in the great  
congregation;  
I will perform my vows  
in the presence of those that fear you. **R**

The poor shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;  
their hearts shall live for ever.

All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations shall bow  
before him.

For the kingdom is the Lord's  
and he rules over the nations. **R**

### SECOND READING

**Galatians 3:23-end**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.*

Before faith came, we were imprisoned and  
guarded under the law until faith would  
be revealed. Therefore the law was our  
disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we  
might be justified by faith. But now that  
faith has come, we are no longer subject to  
a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are  
all children of God through faith. As many  
of you as were baptized into Christ have  
clothed yourselves with Christ; there is no  
longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer male  
and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.  
And if you belong to Christ, then you are  
Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the  
promise.

### GOSPEL Luke 8:26-39

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

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country  
of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.  
As he stepped out on land, a man of the city  
who had demons met him. For a long time  
he had worn no clothes, and he did not live

in a house but in the tombs. When he saw  
Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted  
at the top of his voice, "What have you to  
do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High  
God? I beg you, do not torment me" – for  
Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to  
come out of the man. (For many times it  
had seized him; he was kept under guard  
and bound with chains and shackles, but  
he would break the bonds and be driven  
by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then  
asked him, "What is your name?" He said,  
"Legion"; for many demons had entered  
him. They begged him not to order them to  
go back into the abyss. Now there on the  
hillside a large herd of swine was feeding;  
and the demons begged Jesus to let them  
enter these. So he gave them permission.  
Then the demons came out of the man and  
entered the swine, and the herd rushed  
down the steep bank into the lake and was  
drowned. When the swineherds saw what  
had happened, they ran off and told it in  
the city and in the country. Then people  
came out to see what had happened, and  
when they came to Jesus, they found the  
man from whom the demons had gone  
sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and  
in his right mind. And they were afraid.  
Those who had seen it told them how the  
one who had been possessed by demons  
had been healed. Then all the people of  
the surrounding country of the Gerasenes  
asked Jesus to leave them; for they were  
seized with great fear. So he got into the  
boat and returned. The man from whom the  
demons had gone begged that he might be  
with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying,  
"Return to your home, and declare how  
much God has done for you." So he went  
away, proclaiming throughout the city how  
much Jesus had done for him.

### POST COMMUNION

Eternal Father,  
we thank you for nourishing us  
with these heavenly gifts:  
may our communion strengthen us in faith,  
build us up in hope,  
and make us grow in love;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.