

COLLECT

Almighty God,
 you show to those who are in error the
 light of your truth,
 that they may return to the way of
 righteousness:
 grant to all those who are admitted
 into the fellowship of Christ's religion,
 that they may reject those things
 that are contrary to their profession,
 and follow all such things as are
 agreeable to the same;
 through our Lord Jesus Christ,
 who is alive and reigns with you,
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
 one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 17:1-7. 15-16

A reading from the book of Genesis.
 When Abram was ninety-nine years old,
 the LORD appeared to Abram, and
 said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk
 before me, and be blameless. And I will
 make my covenant between me and
 you, and will make you exceedingly
 numerous." Then Abram fell on his face;
 and God said to him, "As for me, this is
 my covenant with you: You shall be the
 ancestor of a multitude of nations. No
 longer shall your name be Abram, but
 your name shall be Abraham; for I have
 made you the ancestor of a multitude
 of nations. I will make you exceedingly
 fruitful; and I will make nations of you,
 and kings shall come from you. I will
 establish my covenant between me
 and you, and your offspring after you
 throughout their generations, for an
 everlasting covenant, to be God to you
 and to your offspring after you." God
 said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife,
 you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah
 shall be her name. I will bless her, and
 moreover I will give you a son by her.
 I will bless her, and she shall give rise
 to nations; kings of peoples shall come
 from her."

PSALM Psalm 22:23-end

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

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



Be not far from me, O Lord.

From you comes my praise in the great
 congregation;
 I will perform my vows
 in the presence of those that fear you.
 The poor shall eat and be satisfied;
 those who seek the Lord shall praise
 him;
 their hearts shall live for ever. **R**

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**

How can those who sleep in the earth
 bow down in worship,
 or those who go down to the dust kneel
 before him?
 He has saved my life for himself;
 my descendants shall serve him;
 this shall be told of the Lord for
 generations to come.
 They shall come and make known his
 salvation,
 to a people yet unborn,
 declaring that he, the Lord, has done it. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 4:13-end
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

The promise that he would inherit the
 world did not come to Abraham or to
 his descendants through the law but
 through the righteousness of faith. If it is
 the adherents of the law who are to be
 the heirs, faith is null and the promise
 is void. For the law brings wrath; but
 where there is no law, neither is there
 violation. For this reason it depends on
 faith, in order that the promise may rest
 on grace and be guaranteed to all his
 descendants, not only to the adherents
 of the law but also to those who share
 the faith of Abraham (for he is the father
 of all of us, as it is written, "I have
 made you the father of many nations")
 – Abraham believed in the presence
 of the God who gives life to the dead
 and calls into existence the things that
 do not exist. Hoping against hope, he
 believed that he would become "the
 father of many nations," according to
 what was said, "So numerous shall your
 descendants be." He did not weaken in
 faith when he considered his own body,
 which was already as good as dead (for
 he was about a hundred years old), or
 when he considered the barrenness of

Sarah's womb. No distrust made him
 waver concerning the promise of God,
 but he grew strong in his faith as he
 gave glory to God, being fully convinced
 that God was able to do what he had
 promised. Therefore his faith "was
 reckoned to him as righteousness." Now
 the words, "it was reckoned to him,"
 were written not for his sake alone, but
 for ours also. It will be reckoned to us
 who believe in him who raised Jesus our
 Lord from the dead, who was handed
 over to death for our trespasses and was
 raised for our justification.

GOSPEL Mark 8:31-end

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

Jesus began to teach his disciples that
 the Son of Man must undergo great
 suffering, and be rejected by the elders,
 the chief priests, and the scribes, and
 be killed, and after three days rise
 again. He said all this quite openly.
 And Peter took him aside and began
 to rebuke him. But turning and looking
 at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and
 said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you
 are setting your mind not on divine
 things but on human things." He called
 the crowd with his disciples, and said
 to them, "If any want to become my
 followers, let them deny themselves and
 take up their cross and follow me. For
 those who want to save their life will
 lose it, and those who lose their life for
 my sake, and for the sake of the gospel,
 will save it. For what will it profit them
 to gain the whole world and forfeit their
 life? Indeed, what can they give in return
 for their life? Those who are ashamed of
 me and of my words in this adulterous
 and sinful generation, of them the Son
 of Man will also be ashamed when he
 comes in the glory of his Father with the
 holy angels."

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God,
 you see that we have no power of
 ourselves to help ourselves:
 keep us both outwardly in our bodies,
 and inwardly in our souls;
 that we may be defended from all
 adversities which may happen to the
 body,
 and from all evil thoughts which may
 assault and hurt the soul;
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.