

COLLECT

God, the giver of life,
whose Holy Spirit wells up within your
Church:
by the Spirit's gifts equip us to live the
gospel of Christ and make us
eager to do your will,
that we may share with the whole
creation the joys of eternal life;
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

Either **Amos 5:6-7. 10-15**

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Seek the LORD and live, or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire, and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it. Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood, and bring righteousness to the ground! They hate the one who reproves in the gate, and they abhor the one who speaks the truth. Therefore because you trample on the poor and take from them levies of grain, you have built houses of hewn stone, but you shall not live in them; you have planted pleasant vineyards, but you shall not drink their wine. For I know how many are your transgressions, and how great are your sins – you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe, and push aside the needy in the gate. Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time; for it is an evil time. Seek good and not evil, that you may live; and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you, just as you have said. Hate evil and love good, and establish justice in the gate; it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts, will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Or **Job 23:1-9. 16-end**

PSALM Psalm 90:12-end

R *O Lord my God, in you I take refuge.*

So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to
wisdom.

Turn again, O Lord; how long will you delay?

Have compassion on your servants. **R**

Satisfy us with your loving-kindness in the morning;

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Give us gladness for the days you have afflicted us,

and for the years in which we have seen adversity. **R**

Show your servants your works,
and let your glory be over their children.

May the gracious favour of the Lord our God be upon us;

prosper our handiwork; O prosper the work of our hands. **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 4:12-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account. Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

GOSPEL Mark 10:17-31

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

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not

commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother.'" He said to Jesus, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions. Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible." Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age – houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields – but with persecutions – and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son, the light unfailing,
has come from heaven to deliver the
world from the darkness of
ignorance:

let these holy mysteries open the eyes
of our understanding
that we may know the way of life,
and walk in it without stumbling;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

