

COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,
by whose Spirit the whole body of
the Church is governed and
sanctified:

hear our prayer which we offer for
all your faithful people,
that in their vocation and ministry
they may serve you in holiness and
truth

to the glory of your name;
through our Lord and Saviour
Jesus Christ,

who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-12

A reading from the book of the prophet Zechariah.

Rejoice greatly, O daughter
Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter
Jerusalem! Lo, your king comes
to you; triumphant and victorious
is he, humble and riding on a
donkey, on a colt, the foal of a
donkey. He will cut off the chariot
from Ephraim and the war horse
from Jerusalem; and the battle-
bow shall be cut off, and he shall
command peace to the nations;
his dominion shall be from sea
to sea, and from the River to
the ends of the earth. As for you
also, because of the blood of my
covenant with you, I will set your
prisoners free from the waterless
pit. Return to your stronghold, O
prisoners of hope; today I declare
that I will restore to you double.

Or **Genesis 24:34-38. 42-49. 58-end**

PSALM Psalm 145:8-15

R *I will exalt you, O God my king,
[and bless your name for ever].*

The Lord is gracious and full of
compassion,
slow to anger and of great
kindness.

The Lord is loving to everyone

and his compassion is over all his
works.

All your works praise you, O Lord,
and your faithful servants bless
you. **R**

They make known the glory of
your kingdom
and speak of your power;
That the peoples may know of
your power
and the glorious splendour of your
kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting
kingdom;
your dominion endures
throughout all ages. **R**

The Lord is faithful in all his words
and merciful in all his deeds.

The Lord upholds all those who fall;
he lifts up those who are bowed
down. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 7:15-25a

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

I do not understand my own
actions. For I do not do what I
want, but I do the very thing I
hate. Now if I do what I do not
want, I agree that the law is good.
But in fact it is no longer I that
do it, but sin that dwells within
me. For I know that nothing good
dwells within me, that is, in my
flesh. I can will what is right, but
I cannot do it. For I do not do
the good I want, but the evil I do
not want is what I do. Now if I do
what I do not want, it is no longer
I that do it, but sin that dwells
within me. So I find it to be a law
that when I want to do what is
good, evil lies close at hand. For
I delight in the law of God in
my inmost self, but I see in my
members another law at war
with the law of my mind, making
me captive to the law of sin that
dwells in my members. Wretched
man that I am! Who will rescue me

from this body of death? Thanks
be to God through Jesus Christ
our Lord!

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:16-19. 25-end

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

At that time Jesus said, "To what
will I compare this generation?
It is like children sitting in the
market-places and calling to one
another, 'We played the flute for
you, and you did not dance; we
wailed, and you did not mourn.'
For John came neither eating nor
drinking, and they say, 'He has
a demon'; the Son of Man came
eating and drinking, and they say,
'Look, a glutton and a drunkard,
a friend of tax-collectors and sinners!'
Yet wisdom is vindicated by her
deeds. I thank you, Father, Lord
of heaven and earth, because you
have hidden these things from
the wise and the intelligent and
have revealed them to infants;
yes, Father, for such was your
gracious will. All things have been
handed over to me by my Father;
and no one knows the Son except
the Father, and no one knows
the Father except the Son and
anyone to whom the Son chooses
to reveal him. Come to me, all you
that are weary and are carrying
heavy burdens, and I will give you
rest. Take my yoke upon you, and
learn from me; for I am gentle and
humble in heart, and you will find
rest for your souls. For my yoke is
easy, and my burden is light."

POST COMMUNION

Grant, O Lord, we beseech you,
that the course of this world may
be so peaceably ordered by
your governance,
that your Church may joyfully
serve you in all godly quietness;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.