

COLLECT

Almighty God,
whose only Son has opened for us
a new and living way into your presence:
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills
to worship you in spirit and in truth;
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

Genesis 50:15-21

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

PSALM

Psalms 103:[1-7]. 8-13

R *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
[slow to anger and of great kindness].*

[Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits. **R**

He forgives all your sins
and heals all your infirmities;
He redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; **R**

He satisfies you with good things,
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness

and judgement for all who are
oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses
and his works to the children of Israel. **R]**

The Lord is full of compassion and
mercy,
slow to anger and of great kindness.
He will not always accuse us,
nor will he keep his anger for ever.
He has not dealt with us according to
our sins,
nor rewarded us according to our
wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the
earth,
so is his mercy great upon those who
fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far has he removed our sins from us.
As a father cares for his children,
so does the Lord care for those who
fear him. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 14:1-12

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Welcome those who are weak in faith,
but not for the purpose of quarrelling
over opinions. Some believe in eating
anything, while the weak eat only
vegetables. Those who eat must not
despise those who abstain, and those
who abstain must not pass judgement
on those who eat; for God has
welcomed them. Who are you to pass
judgement on servants of another? It is
before their own lord that they stand
or fall. And they will be upheld, for
the Lord is able to make them stand.
Some judge one day to be better than
another, while others judge all days to
be alike. Let all be fully convinced in
their own minds. Those who observe
the day, observe it in honour of the
Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour
of the Lord, since they give thanks to
God; while those who abstain, abstain
in honour of the Lord and give thanks
to God. We do not live to ourselves,
and we do not die to ourselves. If we
live, we live to the Lord, and if we die,
we die to the Lord; so then, whether
we live or whether we die, we are the
Lord's. For to this end Christ died and
lived again, so that he might be Lord
of both the dead and the living. Why
do you pass judgement on your brother
or sister? Or you, why do you despise
your brother or sister? For we will all
stand before the judgement seat of
God. For

it is written, "As I live, says the Lord,
every knee shall bow to me, and every
tongue shall give praise to God." So
then, each of us will be accountable
to God.

GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord,
if another member of the church sins
against me, how often should I forgive?
As many as seven times?" Jesus said
to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell
you, seventy-seven times. For this
reason the kingdom of heaven may
be compared to a king who wished to
settle accounts with his slaves. When he
began the reckoning, one who owed
him ten thousand talents was brought
to him; and, as he could not pay, his
lord ordered him to be sold, together
with his wife and children and all his
possessions, and payment to be made.
So the slave fell on his knees before
him, saying, 'Have patience with me,
and I will pay you everything.' And out
of pity for him, the lord of that slave
released him and forgave him the debt.
But that same slave, as he went out,
came upon one of his fellow-slaves
who owed him a hundred denarii; and
seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay
what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave
fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have
patience with me, and I will pay you.'
But he refused; then he went and threw
him into prison until he would pay
the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw
what had happened, they were greatly
distressed, and they went and reported
to their lord all that had taken place.
Then his lord summoned him and said
to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you
all that debt because you pleaded with
me. Should you not have had mercy
on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on
you?' And in anger his lord handed him
over to be tortured until he would pay
his entire debt. So my heavenly Father
will also do to every one of you, if you
do not forgive your brother or sister
from your heart."

POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching
and fellowship,
united in prayer and the breaking of
bread,
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,
in Jesus Christ our Lord.