

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
you have delivered us from the power
of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of
your Son:
grant, that as by his death he has
recalled us to life,
so by his continual presence in us he
may raise us to eternal joy;
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

Acts 17:22-31

*A reading from the Acts of the
Apostles.*

Then Paul stood in front of the
Areopagus and said, "Athenians, I see
how extremely religious you are in
every way. For as I went through the
city and looked carefully at the objects
of your worship, I found among them
an altar with the inscription, 'To an
unknown god.' What therefore you
worship as unknown, this I proclaim
to you. The God who made the world
and everything in it, he who is Lord
of heaven and earth, does not live in
shrines made by human hands, nor is
he served by human hands, as though
he needed anything, since he himself
gives to all mortals life and breath
and all things. From one ancestor he
made all nations to inhabit the whole
earth, and he allotted the times of
their existence and the boundaries
of the places where they would live,
so that they would search for God
and perhaps grope for him and find
him – though indeed he is not far
from each one of us. For 'In him we
live and move and have our being';
as even some of your own poets have
said, 'For we too are his offspring.'
Since we are God's offspring, we
ought not to think that the deity is
like gold, or silver, or stone, an image
formed by the art and imagination of
mortals. While God has overlooked
the times of human ignorance, now he
commands all people everywhere to
repent, because he has fixed a day on
which he will have the world judged in
righteousness by a man whom he has
appointed, and of this he has given
assurance to all by raising him from
the dead."

PSALM Psalm 66:7-18

R *[Bless our God, you peoples;]
let the sound of his praise be heard.*

Bless our God, you peoples;
make the voice of his praise to be
heard.
Who holds our souls in life,
and will not allow our feet to slip. **R**
For you, O God, have proved us;
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
You brought us into the snare;
you laid heavy burdens upon our
backs.
You let enemies ride over our heads;
we went through fire and water;
but you brought us out into a place of
refreshment. **R**

I will enter your house with burnt-
offerings
and will pay you my vows,
which I promised with my lips
and spoke with my mouth when I was
in trouble.
I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts
with the smoke of rams;
I will give you oxen and goats. **R**
Come and listen, all you who fear God,
and I will tell you what he has done
for me.
I called out to him with my mouth,
and his praise was on my tongue.
If I had found evil in my heart,
the Lord would not have heard me; **R**
But in truth God has heard me;
he has attended to the voice of my
prayer.
Blessed be God, who has not rejected
my prayer,
nor withheld his love from me. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 3:13-22

*A reading from the first letter of
Peter.*

Who will harm you if you are eager
to do what is good? But even if you
do suffer for doing what is right, you
are blessed. Do not fear what they
fear, and do not be intimidated, but
in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord.
Always be ready to make your defence
to anyone who demands from you an
account of the hope that is in you; yet
do it with gentleness and reverence.
Keep your conscience clear, so that,
when you are maligned, those who
abuse you for your good conduct in
Christ may be put to shame. For it
is better to suffer for doing good, if

suffering should be God's will, than
to suffer for doing evil. For Christ
also suffered for sins once for all, the
righteous for the unrighteous, in order
to bring you to God. He was put to
death in the flesh, but made alive in
the spirit, in which also he went and
made a proclamation to the spirits in
prison, who in former times did not
obey, when God waited patiently in
the days of Noah, during the building
of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight
persons, were saved through water.
And baptism, which this prefigured,
now saves you – not as a removal of
dirt from the body, but as an appeal to
God for a good conscience, through
the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who
has gone into heaven and is at the right
hand of God, with angels, authorities,
and powers made subject to him.

GOSPEL John 14:15-21

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you love
me, you will keep my commandments.
And I will ask the Father, and he will
give you another Advocate, to be
with you for ever. This is the Spirit of
truth, whom the world cannot receive,
because it neither sees him nor knows
him. You know him, because he abides
with you, and he will be in you. I will
not leave you orphaned; I am coming
to you. In a little while the world will
no longer see me, but you will see me;
because I live, you also will live. On
that day you will know that I am in my
Father, and you in me, and I in you.
They who have my commandments
and keep them are those who love
me; and those who love me will be
loved by my Father, and I will love
them and reveal myself to them."

POST COMMUNION

God our Father,
whose Son Jesus Christ gives the
water of eternal life:
may we thirst for you,
the spring of life and source of
goodness,
through him who is alive and reigns,
now and for ever.