

COLLECT

Blessed Lord,
 who caused all holy Scriptures to be
 written for our learning:
 help us so to hear them,
 to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest
 them
 that, through patience, and the comfort
 of your holy word,
 we may embrace and for ever hold fast
 the hope of everlasting life,
 which you have given us in our 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 Isaiah 55:1-11

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall

not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

PSALM Psalm 19:7-14

R *The commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.*

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
 the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple. **R**

The statutes of the Lord are right and rejoice the heart;
 the commandment of the Lord is pure and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever;
 the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. **R**

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter also than honey, dripping from the honeycomb.
 By them also is your servant taught and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can tell how often they offend?
 O cleanse me from my secret faults! **R**

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins lest they get dominion over me; so shall I be undefiled, and innocent of great offence.
 Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
 O Lord, my strength and my redeemer. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14 – 4:5

A reading from the second letter of Paul to Timothy.

Continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim

the message; be persistent whether the time is favourable or unfavourable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

GOSPEL John 5:36b-47

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

Jesus said to the Jews: "I have a testimony greater than John's. The works that the Father has given me to complete, the very works that I am doing, testify on my behalf that the Father has sent me. And the Father who sent me has himself testified on my behalf. You have never heard his voice or seen his form, and you do not have his word abiding in you, because you do not believe him whom he has sent. You search the scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that testify on my behalf. Yet you refuse to come to me to have life. I do not accept glory from human beings. But I know that you do not have the love of God in you. I have come in my Father's name, and you do not accept me; if another comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe when you accept glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the one who alone is God? Do not think that I will accuse you before the Father; your accuser is Moses, on whom you have set your hope. If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

POST COMMUNION

God of all grace,
 your Son Jesus Christ fed the hungry with the bread of his life
 and the word of his kingdom:
 renew your people with your heavenly grace,
 and in all our weakness
 sustain us by your true and living bread;
 who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

