

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 Psalm 103:1-13

[or 103:8-13]

R *The Lord is full of compassion and
 mercy.*

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**

Who forgives all your sins
 and heals all your infirmities;
 Who redeems your life from the Pit
 and crowns you with faithful love and
 compassion; **R**

Who satisfies you with good things,
 so that your youth is renewed like
 an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness
 and judgement for all who are oppressed. **R**

He made his ways known to Moses
 and his works to the children of Israel.
 [The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,
 slow to anger and of great kindness. **R**

He will not always accuse us,
 neither 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 great is his mercy upon those who
 fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,
 so far has he set our sins from us.
 As a father has compassion on his children,
 so is the Lord merciful towards 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.

