

COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are
nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most
excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all
virtues,
without which whoever lives is
counted dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus
Christ's sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Ezekiel 17:22-end

A reading from the book of the prophet Ezekiel.
Thus says the Lord GOD: I myself
will take a sprig from the lofty top of
a cedar; I will set it out. I will break
off a tender one from the topmost
of its young twigs; I myself will plant
it on a high and lofty mountain. On
the mountain height of Israel I will
plant it, in order that it may produce
boughs and bear fruit, and become
a noble cedar. Under it every kind
of bird will live; in the shade of its
branches will nest winged creatures
of every kind. All the trees of the field
shall know that I am the LORD. I bring
low the high tree, I make high the
low tree; I dry up the green tree and
make the dry tree flourish. I the LORD
have spoken; I will accomplish it.

PSALM Psalm 92:1-4. 12-end
(or 92:1-8)

R *You, O Lord, shall be exalted for evermore.*

It is a good thing to give thanks to
the Lord
and to sing praises to your name,
O Most High;
To tell of your love early in the
morning
and of your faithfulness in the night-
time,
Upon the ten-stringed instrument,
upon the harp,
and to the melody of the lyre. **R**

For you, Lord, have made me glad by
your acts,
and I sing aloud at the works of your
hands.

The righteous shall flourish like a palm
tree,
and shall spread abroad like a cedar
of Lebanon.

Such as are planted in the house of
the Lord
shall flourish in the courts of our God. **R**

They shall still bear fruit in old age;
they shall be vigorous and in full leaf;
That they may show that the Lord is
true; he is my rock,
and there is no unrighteousness in
him. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10 [11-13] 14-17

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters, we are always
confident; even though we know that
while we are at home in the body we
are away from the Lord – for we walk
by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have
confidence, and we would rather be
away from the body and at home
with the Lord. So whether we are at
home or away, we make it our aim to
please him. For all of us must appear
before the judgement seat of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense
for what has been done in the body,
whether good or evil. [Therefore,
knowing the fear of the Lord, we try
to persuade others; but we ourselves
are well known to God, and I hope
that we are also well known to your
consciences. We are not commending
ourselves to you again, but giving you
an opportunity to boast about us, so
that you may be able to answer those
who boast in outward appearance and
not in the heart. For if we are beside
ourselves, it is for God; if we are in
our right mind, it is for you.] The love
of Christ urges us on, because we are
convinced that one has died for all;
therefore all have died. And he died
for all, so that those who live might
live no longer for themselves, but for
him who died and was raised for them.
From now on, therefore, we regard no
one from a human point of view; even
though we once knew Christ from a
human point of view, we know him
no longer in that way. So if anyone
is in Christ, there is a new creation:
everything old has passed away; see,
everything has become new!

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34

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

Such a large crowd gathered around
Jesus that he got into a boat and
began to teach them using many
parables. Jesus said, "The kingdom
of God is as if someone would scatter
seed on the ground, and would sleep
and rise night and day, and the seed
would sprout and grow, he does not
know how. The earth produces of
itself, first the stalk, then the head,
then the full grain in the head. But
when the grain is ripe, at once he
goes in with his sickle, because the
harvest has come." Jesus also said,
"With what can we compare the
kingdom of God, or what parable will
we use for it? It is like a mustard seed,
which, when sown upon the ground,
is the smallest of all the seeds on
earth; yet when it is sown it grows
up and becomes the greatest of all
shrubs, and puts forth large branches,
so that the birds of the air can make
nests in its shade." With many such
parables he spoke the word to them,
as they were able to hear it; he did
not speak to them except in parables,
but he explained everything in private
to his disciples.

POST COMMUNION

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the
supper of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.



You, O Lord, shall be ex - al - ted for ev - er more.