

### 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 Isaiah 35:4-7a

*A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.*

Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear! Here is your  
God. He will come with vengeance, with  
terrible recompense. He will come and  
save you." Then the eyes of the blind  
shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf  
unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a  
deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing  
for joy. For waters shall break forth in the  
wilderness, and streams in the desert; the  
burning sand shall become a pool, and the  
thirsty ground springs of water.

### PSALM Psalm 146

**R** *The Lord shall reign for ever.*

Alleluia.

Praise the Lord, O my soul:  
while I live will I praise the Lord;  
as long as I have any being,  
I will sing praises to my God.  
Put not your trust in princes,  
nor in any human power,  
for there is no help in them.  
When their breath goes forth, they return  
to the earth;  
on that day all their thoughts perish. **R**

Happy are those who have the God of  
Jacob for their help,  
whose hope is in the Lord their God;  
Who made heaven and earth,  
the sea and all that is in them;  
who keeps his promise for ever;  
Who gives justice to those that suffer  
wrong  
and bread to those who hunger. **R**

The Lord looses those that are bound;  
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind;  
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed  
down;  
the Lord loves the righteous; **R**

The Lord watches over the stranger in the  
land;  
he upholds the orphan and widow;  
but the way of the wicked he turns upside  
down.

The Lord shall reign for ever,  
your God, O Zion, throughout all  
generations.  
Alleluia. **R**

### SECOND READING

**James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17**

*A reading from the letter of James.*

My brothers and sisters, do you with your  
acts of favouritism really believe in our  
glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person  
with gold rings and in fine clothes comes  
into your assembly, and if a poor person in  
dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take  
notice of the one wearing the fine clothes  
and say, "Have a seat here, please," while  
to the one who is poor you say, "Stand  
there," or, "Sit at my feet," have you  
not made distinctions among yourselves,  
and become judges with evil thoughts?  
Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.  
Has not God chosen the poor in the world  
to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the  
kingdom that he has promised to those  
who love him? But you have dishonoured  
the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress  
you? Is it not they who drag you into  
court? Is it not they who blaspheme the  
excellent name that was invoked over  
you? You do well if you really fulfil the  
royal law according to the scripture, "You  
shall love your neighbour as yourself." But  
if you show partiality, you commit sin and  
are convicted by the law as transgressors.  
For whoever keeps the whole law but fails  
in one point has become accountable for  
all of it. [For the one who said, "You shall  
not commit adultery," also said, "You shall  
not murder." Now if you do not commit  
adultery but if you murder, you have  
become a transgressor of the law. So speak  
and so act as those who are to be judged by  
the law of liberty. For judgement will be  
without mercy to anyone who has shown  
no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.]  
What good is it, my brothers and sisters,  
if you say you have faith but do not have  
works? Can faith save you? If a brother or  
sister is naked and lacks daily food, and  
one of you says to them, "Go in peace;  
keep warm and eat your fill," and yet you  
do not supply their bodily needs, what is

the good of that? So faith by itself, if it  
has no works, is dead.

### GOSPEL Mark 7:24-37

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

Jesus set out and went away to the region  
of Tyre. He entered a house and did not  
want anyone to know he was there. Yet  
he could not escape notice, but a woman  
whose little daughter had an unclean  
spirit immediately heard about him,  
and she came and bowed down at his  
feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of  
Syrophenician origin. She begged him  
to cast the demon out of her daughter.  
He said to her, "Let the children be fed  
first, for it is not fair to take the children's  
food and throw it to the dogs." But she  
answered him, "Sir, even the dogs under  
the table eat the children's crumbs." Then  
he said to her, "For saying that, you may  
go – the demon has left your daughter."  
So she went home, found the child lying  
on the bed, and the demon gone. Then  
he returned from the region of Tyre, and  
went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of  
Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis.  
They brought to him a deaf man who had  
an impediment in his speech; and they  
begged him to lay his hand on him. He  
took him aside in private, away from the  
crowd, and put his fingers into his ears,  
and he spat and touched his tongue.  
Then looking up to heaven, he sighed  
and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be  
opened." And immediately his ears were  
opened, his tongue was released, and he  
spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them  
to tell no one; but the more he ordered  
them, the more zealously they proclaimed  
it. They were astounded beyond measure,  
saying, "He has done everything well; he  
even makes the deaf to hear and the mute  
to speak."

### 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.



The Lord shall reign for ever.