

## COLLECT

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those  
in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages  
of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle  
rule;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

### (Alternative readings)

Either **Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16**

*A reading from the book of Wisdom.*

Wisdom is radiant and unfading,  
and she is easily discerned by those  
who love her, and is found by those  
who seek her. She hastens to make  
herself known to those who desire  
her. One who rises early to seek  
her will have no difficulty, for she  
will be found sitting at the gate. To  
fix one's thought on her is perfect  
understanding, and one who is  
vigilant on her account will soon be  
free from care, because she goes  
about seeking those worthy of her,  
and she graciously appears to them in  
their paths, and meets them in every  
thought.

Or **Amos 5:18-24**

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

Alas for you who desire the day of  
the LORD! Why do you want the day  
of the LORD? It is darkness, not light;  
as if someone fled from a lion, and  
was met by a bear; or went into the  
house and rested a hand against the  
wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not  
the day of the LORD darkness, not  
light, and gloom with no brightness  
in it? I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn  
assemblies. Even though you offer  
me your burnt-offerings and grain-

offerings, I will not accept them; and  
the offerings of well-being of your  
fatted animals I will not look upon.  
Take away from me the noise of your  
songs; I will not listen to the melody  
of your harps. But let justice roll down  
like waters, and righteousness like an  
ever-flowing stream.

## PSALM Psalm 70

**R** *Come to me quickly, O God.*

O God, make speed to save me;  
O Lord, make haste to help me.  
Let those who seek my life  
be put to shame and confusion;  
let them be turned back and  
disgraced  
who wish me evil.  
Let those who mock and deride me  
turn back because of their shame. **R**

But let all who seek you rejoice and  
be glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say  
always, "Great is the Lord!"  
As for me, I am poor and needy;  
come to me quickly, O God.  
You are my help and my deliverer;  
O Lord, do not delay. **R**

## SECOND READING

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.*

We do not want you to be  
uninformed, brothers and sisters,  
about those who have died, so that  
you may not grieve as others do who  
have no hope. For since we believe  
that Jesus died and rose again, even  
so, through Jesus, God will bring with  
him those who have died. For this  
we declare to you by the word of the  
Lord, that we who are alive, who are  
left until the coming of the Lord, will  
by no means precede those who have  
died. For the Lord himself, with a cry  
of command, with the archangel's call  
and with the sound of God's trumpet,  
will descend from heaven, and the  
dead in Christ will rise first. Then we  
who are alive, who are left, will be  
caught up in the clouds together with

them to meet the Lord in the air; and  
so we will be with the Lord for ever.  
Therefore encourage one another  
with these words.

## GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

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

Jesus spoke this parable to the  
disciples: "The kingdom of heaven  
will be like this. Ten bridesmaids  
took their lamps and went to meet  
the bridegroom. Five of them were  
foolish, and five were wise. When the  
foolish took their lamps, they took  
no oil with them; but the wise took  
flasks of oil with their lamps. As the  
bridegroom was delayed, all of them  
became drowsy and slept. But at  
midnight there was a shout, 'Look!  
Here is the bridegroom! Come out to  
meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids  
got up and trimmed their lamps. The  
foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some  
of your oil, for our lamps are going  
out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there  
will not be enough for you and for us;  
you had better go to the dealers and  
buy some for yourselves.' And while  
they went to buy it, the bridegroom  
came, and those who were ready  
went with him into the wedding  
banquet; and the door was shut. Later  
the other bridesmaids came also,  
saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But  
he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not  
know you.' Keep awake therefore,  
for you know neither the day nor the  
hour."

## POST COMMUNION

God of peace,  
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed  
the kingdom  
and restored the broken to wholeness  
of life:  
look with compassion on the anguish  
of the world,  
and by your healing power  
make whole both people and nations;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus  
Christ.



Come to me quick-ly, O God.