

COLLECT

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus
Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in
heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place
where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

The reading from Acts must be used as either the first or second reading.

Either Acts 16:16-34

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation." She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, "I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her." And it came out that very hour. But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, "These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe." The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks. About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." The jailer called for lights, and

rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptised without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

Or Ezekiel 36:24-28

PSALM Psalm 97

R *The Lord is king,
most high over all the earth.*

The Lord is king; let the earth rejoice;
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
Clouds and darkness are round about him,
righteousness and justice
are the foundations of his throne.
A fire goes before him
and burns up his enemies on every side. **R**

His lightnings light up the world;
the earth sees it and is afraid.
The mountains melt like wax
at the presence of the Lord,
at the presence of the Lord of the whole
earth.

The heavens declare his righteousness,
and all the peoples see his glory. **R**

Confounded be all who worship carved
images
and delight in false gods!
Bow down before him, all you gods.
Zion hears and is glad and the cities of
Judah rejoice,
because of your judgements, O Lord.
For you are the Lord: most high over all
the earth;
you are exalted far above all gods. **R**

The Lord loves those who hate evil;
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the
wicked.
Light has sprung up for the righteous,
and joyful gladness for those who are true-
hearted.
Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name. **R**

SECOND READING

Revelation 22:12-14. 16-17. 20-end
A reading from the book of Revelation.

I, John, heard a voice saying to me: "See,
I am coming soon; my reward is with me,

to repay according to everyone's work.
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first
and the last, the beginning and the end."
Blessed are those who wash their robes,
so that they will have the right to the tree
of life and may enter the city by the gates.
"It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you
with this testimony for the churches. I am
the root and the descendant of David, the
bright morning star." The Spirit and the
bride say, "Come." And let everyone who
hears say, "Come." And let everyone who
is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes
take the water of life as a gift. The one
who testifies to these things says, "Surely
I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord
Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with
all the saints. Amen.

Or Acts 16:16-34

GOSPEL John 17:20-end

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:
"Holy Father, I ask not only on behalf of
these, but also on behalf of those who will
believe in me through their word, that they
may all be one. As you, Father, are in me
and I am in you, may they also be in us, so
that the world may believe that you have
sent me. The glory that you have given
me I have given them, so that they may
be one, as we are one, I in them and you
in me, that they may become completely
one, so that the world may know that you
have sent me and have loved them even
as you have loved me. Father, I desire that
those also, whom you have given me, may
be with me where I am, to see my glory,
which you have given me because you
loved me before the foundation of the
world. Righteous Father, the world does
not know you, but I know you; and these
know that you have sent me. I made your
name known to them, and I will make it
known, so that the love with which you
have loved me may be in them, and I in
them."

POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all
the world
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:
confirm us in this mission,
and help us to live the good news we
proclaim;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.