

COLLECT

Almighty God,
who called your Church to bear
witness
that you were in Christ reconciling
the world to yourself:
help us to proclaim the good news
of your love,
that all who hear it may be drawn to
you;
through him who was lifted up on
the cross,
and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Exodus 32:7-14

A reading from the book of Exodus.

At the top of Mount Sinai, the LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshipped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation." But Moses implored the LORD his God, and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it for ever.'" And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

Or Jeremiah 4:11-12. 22-28

PSALM Psalm 51:1-11

R *Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.*

or

R *Hide your face from my sins, O God.*

Have mercy on me, O God,
according to your loving-kindness;
in your great compassion blot out
my offences.
Wash me through and through from
my wickedness
and cleanse me from my sin. **R**

For I know my transgressions,
and my sin is ever before me.
Against you only have I sinned
and done what is evil in your sight.
And so you are justified when you
speak
and upright in your judgement. **R**

Indeed, I have been wicked from my
birth,
a sinner from my mother's womb.
For behold, you look for truth deep
within me,
and will make me understand
wisdom secretly.
Purge me from my sin and I shall be
pure;
wash me and I shall be clean
indeed. **R**

Make me hear of joy and gladness,
that the body you have broken may
rejoice.

Hide your face from my sins
and blot out all my iniquities. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Timothy 1:12-17

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our
Lord, who has strengthened me,
because he judged me faithful and
appointed me to his service, even
though I was formerly a blasphemer,
a persecutor, and a man of violence.
But I received mercy because I had
acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the
grace of our Lord overflowed for
me with the faith and love that are
in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure
and worthy of full acceptance, that
Christ Jesus came into the world
to save sinners – of whom I am the
foremost. But for that very reason I

received mercy, so that in me, as the
foremost, Jesus Christ might display
the utmost patience, making me an
example to those who would come
to believe in him for eternal life.
To the King of the ages, immortal,
invisible, the only God, be honour
and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

GOSPEL Luke 15:1-10

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

All the tax-collectors and sinners
were coming near to listen to Jesus.
And the Pharisees and the scribes
were grumbling and saying, "This
fellow welcomes sinners and eats
with them." So he told them this
parable: "Which one of you, having
a hundred sheep and losing one of
them, does not leave the ninety-
nine in the wilderness and go after
the one that is lost until he finds
it? When he has found it, he lays
it on his shoulders and rejoices.
And when he comes home, he calls
together his friends and neighbours,
saying to them, 'Rejoice with me,
for I have found my sheep that was
lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be
more joy in heaven over one sinner
who repents than over ninety-nine
righteous persons who need no
repentance. Or what woman having
ten silver coins, if she loses one of
them, does not light a lamp, sweep
the house, and search carefully until
she finds it? When she has found it,
she calls together her friends and
neighbours, saying, 'Rejoice with me,
for I have found the coin that I had
lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in
the presence of the angels of God
over one sinner who repents."

POST COMMUNION

God our creator,
you feed your children with the true
manna,
the living bread from heaven:
let this holy food sustain us through
our earthly pilgrimage
until we come to that place where
hunger and thirst are no more;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.