

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
you are always more ready to hear than  
we to pray  
and to give more than either we desire  
or deserve:  
pour down upon us the abundance of  
your mercy,  
forgiving us those things of which our  
conscience is afraid  
and giving us those good things which  
we are not worthy to ask  
but through the merits and mediation  
of 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

**Deuteronomy 30:15-end**

*A reading from the book of  
Deuteronomy.*

See, I have set before you today life  
and prosperity, death and adversity. If  
you obey the commandments of the  
LORD your God that I am commanding  
you today, by loving the LORD your  
God, walking in his ways, and observing  
his commandments, decrees, and  
ordinances, then you shall live and  
become numerous, and the LORD your  
God will bless you in the land that you  
are entering to possess. But if your heart  
turns away and you do not hear, but are  
led astray to bow down to other gods  
and serve them, I declare to you today  
that you shall perish; you shall not live  
long in the land that you are crossing  
the Jordan to enter and possess. I call  
heaven and earth to witness against you  
today that I have set before you life and  
death, blessings and curses. Choose  
life so that you and your descendants  
may live, loving the LORD your God,  
obeying him, and holding fast to him;  
for that means life to you and length of  
days, so that you may live in the land  
that the LORD swore to give to your  
ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to  
Jacob.

Or **Jeremiah 18:1-11**

## PSALM Psalm 1

**R** *Lord, my delight is in your law.*

Happy are they who have not walked  
in the counsel of the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners;  
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!  
Their delight is in the law of the Lord,

and they meditate on his law day and  
night. **R**

They are like trees planted by streams  
of water,  
bearing fruit in due season,  
with leaves that do not wither;  
everything they do shall prosper.  
It is not so with the wicked:  
they are like chaff which the wind blows  
away; **R**

Therefore the wicked shall not stand  
upright  
when judgement comes,  
nor the sinner in the council of the  
righteous.  
For the Lord knows the way of the  
righteous,  
but the way of the wicked is doomed. **R**

## SECOND READING Philemon 1-21

*A reading from the letter of Paul to  
Philemon.*

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and  
Timothy our brother, To Philemon our  
dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia  
our sister, to Archippus our fellow-  
soldier, and to the church in your house:  
Grace to you and peace from God  
our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.  
When I remember you in my prayers,  
I always thank my God because I hear  
of your love for all the saints and your  
faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray  
that the sharing of your faith may  
become effective when you perceive  
all the good that we may do for Christ.  
I have indeed received much joy and  
encouragement from your love, because  
the hearts of the saints have been  
refreshed through you, my brother. For  
this reason, though I am bold enough in  
Christ to command you to do your duty,  
yet I would rather appeal to you on the  
basis of love – and I, Paul, do this as  
an old man, and now also as a prisoner  
of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you  
for my child, Onesimus, whose father I  
have become during my imprisonment.  
Formerly he was useless to you, but  
now he is indeed useful both to you  
and to me. I am sending him, that is,  
my own heart, back to you. I wanted to  
keep him with me, so that he might be  
of service to me in your place during  
my imprisonment for the gospel; but I  
preferred to do nothing without your  
consent, in order that your good deed  
might be voluntary and not something  
forced. Perhaps this is the reason he

was separated from you for a while, so  
that you might have him back for ever,  
no longer as a slave but more than a  
slave, a beloved brother – especially to  
me but how much more to you, both  
in the flesh and in the Lord. So if you  
consider me your partner, welcome him  
as you would welcome me. If he has  
wronged you in any way, or owes you  
anything, charge that to my account.  
I, Paul, am writing this with my own  
hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about  
your owing me even your own self. Yes,  
brother, let me have this benefit from  
you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in  
Christ. Confident of your obedience, I  
am writing to you, knowing that you will  
do even more than I say.

## GOSPEL Luke 14:25-33

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

Large crowds were travelling with  
Jesus; and he turned and said to them,  
"Whoever comes to me and does  
not hate father and mother, wife and  
children, brothers and sisters, yes, and  
even life itself, cannot be my disciple.  
Whoever does not carry the cross  
and follow me cannot be my disciple.  
For which of you, intending to build  
a tower, does not first sit down and  
estimate the cost, to see whether he  
has enough to complete it? Otherwise,  
when he has laid a foundation and is  
not able to finish, all who see it will  
begin to ridicule him, saying, 'This  
fellow began to build and was not able  
to finish.' Or what king, going out to  
wage war against another king, will not  
sit down first and consider whether he  
is able with ten thousand to oppose  
the one who comes against him with  
twenty thousand? If he cannot, then,  
while the other is still far away, he sends  
a delegation and asks for the terms of  
peace. So therefore, none of you can  
become my disciple if you do not give  
up all your possessions."

## POST COMMUNION

God of all mercy,  
in this eucharist you have set aside our  
sins  
and given us your healing:  
grant that we who are made whole in  
Christ  
may bring that healing to this broken  
world,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.