

COLLECT

Heavenly Father,
whose blessed Son was revealed to
destroy the works of the devil
and to make us the children of God
and heirs of eternal life:
grant that we, having this hope,
may purify ourselves even as he
is pure;
that when he shall appear in power
and great glory
we may be made like him in his
eternal and glorious kingdom;
where he is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Malachi 4:1-2a

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

See, the day is coming, burning like
an oven, when all the arrogant and
all evildoers will be stubble; the day
that comes shall burn them up, says
the LORD of hosts, so that it will
leave them neither root nor branch.
But for you who revere my name the
sun of righteousness shall rise, with
healing in its wings.

PSALM Psalm 98

R *The Lord comes to judge the
earth
[and the peoples with equity].*

Sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvellous things.
With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.
The Lord has made known his
victory;
his righteousness has he openly
shown
in the sight of the nations. **R**

He remembers his mercy and
faithfulness
to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have
seen
the victory of our God.
Shout with joy to the Lord, all
you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing. **R**

Sing to the Lord with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.
With trumpets and the sound of
the horn
shout with joy before the King,
the Lord. **R**

Let the sea make a noise and all that
is in it,
the lands and those who dwell
therein.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy
before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
In righteousness shall he judge the
world,
and the peoples with equity. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

We command you, beloved, in the
name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to
keep away from believers who are
living in idleness and not according
to the tradition that they received
from us. For you yourselves know
how you ought to imitate us; we
were not idle when we were with
you, and we did not eat anyone's
bread without paying for it; but with
toil and labour we worked night and
day, so that we might not burden
any of you. This was not because we
do not have that right, but in order
to give you an example to imitate.
For even when we were with you,
we gave you this command: Anyone
unwilling to work should not eat. For
we hear that some of you are living
in idleness, mere busybodies, not
doing any work. Now such persons
we command and exhort in the Lord
Jesus Christ to do their work quietly
and to earn their own living. Brothers
and sisters, do not be weary in doing
what is right.

GOSPEL Luke 21:5-19

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

When some were speaking about
the temple, how it was adorned with

beautiful stones and gifts dedicated
to God, Jesus said, "As for these
things that you see, the days will
come when not one stone will be
left upon another; all will be thrown
down." They asked him, "Teacher,
when will this be, and what will be
the sign that this is about to take
place?" And Jesus said, "Beware
that you are not led astray; for many
will come in my name and say, 'I
am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do
not go after them. When you hear
of wars and insurrections, do not be
terrified; for these things must take
place first, but the end will not follow
immediately." Then he said to them,
"Nation will rise against nation, and
kingdom against kingdom; there will
be great earthquakes, and in various
places famines and plagues; and
there will be dreadful portents and
great signs from heaven. But before
all this occurs, they will arrest you
and persecute you; they will hand
you over to synagogues and prisons,
and you will be brought before kings
and governors because of my name.
This will give you an opportunity to
testify. So make up your minds not
to prepare your defence in advance;
for I will give you words and a
wisdom that none of your opponents
will be able to withstand or
contradict. You will be betrayed even
by parents and brothers, by relatives
and friends; and they will put some
of you to death. You will be hated by
all because of my name. But not a
hair of your head will perish. By your
endurance you will gain your souls."

POST COMMUNION

Gracious Lord,
in this holy sacrament
you give substance to our hope:
bring us at the last
to that fullness of life for which we
long;
through Jesus Christ our Saviour.