

COLLECT

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and
govern both our hearts and bodies
in the ways of your laws and the works
of your commandments;
that through your most mighty
protection, both here and ever,
we may be preserved in body and soul;
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus
Christ,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Genesis 15:1-6

A reading from the book of Genesis.
The word of the LORD came to Abram
in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I
am your shield; your reward shall be very
great." But Abram said, "O Lord GOD,
what will you give me, for I continue
childless, and the heir of my house is
Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said,
"You have given me no offspring, and
so a slave born in my house is to be my
heir." But the word of the LORD came
to him, "This man shall not be your heir;
no one but your very own issue shall be
your heir." The Lord brought Abraham
outside and said, "Look toward heaven
and count the stars, if you are able
to count them." Then he said to him,
"So shall your descendants be." And
he believed the LORD; and the LORD
reckoned it to him as righteousness.

PSALM Psalm 33:12-end
[or 33:12-21]

R *The earth is full of the loving-kindness
of the Lord.*

Happy the nation whose God is the Lord
and the people he has chosen for his
own.

The Lord looks down from heaven
and beholds all the children of earth. **R**

From where he sits enthroned he turns
his gaze
on all who dwell on the earth.
He fashions all the hearts of them
and understands all their works. **R**

No king is saved by the might of his
host;
no warrior delivered by his great
strength.

A horse is a vain hope for deliverance;
for all its strength it cannot save. **R**

Behold, the eye of the Lord
is upon those who fear him,
on those who wait in hope for his
steadfast love,
To deliver their soul from death
and to feed them in time of famine. **R**

Our soul waits longingly for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.
Indeed, our heart rejoices in him;
in his holy name have we put our trust.
Let your loving-kindness, O Lord, be
upon us,
as we have set our hope on you. **R**

SECOND READING
Hebrews 11:1-3. 8-16

*A reading from the letter to the
Hebrews.*
Faith is the assurance of things hoped
for, the conviction of things not seen.
Indeed, by faith our ancestors received
approval. By faith we understand that
the worlds were prepared by the word
of God, so that what is seen was made
from things that are not visible. By
faith Abraham obeyed when he was
called to set out for a place that he
was to receive as an inheritance; and
he set out, not knowing where he was
going. By faith he stayed for a time
in the land he had been promised,
as in a foreign land, living in tents, as
did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs
with him of the same promise. For he
looked forward to the city that has
foundations, whose architect and builder
is God. By faith he received power of
procreation, even though he was too
old – and Sarah herself was barren –
because he considered him faithful
who had promised. Therefore from one
person, and this one as good as dead,
descendants were born, "as many as the
stars of heaven and as the innumerable
grains of sand by the seashore." All
of these died in faith without having
received the promises, but from a
distance they saw and greeted them.
They confessed that they were strangers
and foreigners on the earth, for people
who speak in this way make it clear
that they are seeking a homeland. If
they had been thinking of the land that
they had left behind, they would have

had opportunity to return. But as it is,
they desire a better country, that is,
a heavenly one. Therefore God is not
ashamed to be called their God; indeed,
he has prepared a city for them.

GOSPEL Luke 12:32-40

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

Jesus said to his disciples, "Do not be
afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's
good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
Sell your possessions, and give alms.
Make purses for yourselves that do
not wear out, an unfailing treasure in
heaven, where no thief comes near
and no moth destroys. For where your
treasure is, there your heart will be
also. Be dressed for action and have
your lamps lit; be like those who are
waiting for their master to return from
the wedding banquet, so that they may
open the door for him as soon as he
comes and knocks. Blessed are those
slaves whom the master finds alert when
he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten
his belt and have them sit down to eat,
and he will come and serve them. If he
comes during the middle of the night, or
near dawn, and finds them so, blessed
are those slaves. But know this: if the
owner of the house had known at what
hour the thief was coming, he would not
have let his house be broken into. You
also must be ready, for the Son of Man
is coming at an unexpected hour."

POST COMMUNION

Strengthen for service, Lord,
the hands that have taken holy things;
may the ears which have heard your
word be deaf to clamour and dispute;
may the tongues which have sung your
praise be free from deceit;
may the eyes which have seen the
tokens of your love shine with the
light of hope;
and may the bodies which have been fed
with your body be refreshed with the
fullness of your life;
glory to you for ever.

