

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose only Son has opened for us  
a new and living way into your presence:  
give us pure hearts and steadfast wills  
to worship you in spirit and in truth;  
through 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

**Genesis 50:15-21**

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, 'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

## PSALM

**Psalms 103:1-7, 8-13**

**R** *The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,  
[slow to anger and of great kindness].*

[Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits. **R**

He forgives all your sins  
and heals all your infirmities;  
He redeems your life from the grave  
and crowns you with mercy and loving-kindness; **R**

He satisfies you with good things,  
and your youth is renewed like an eagle's.

The Lord executes righteousness

and judgement for all who are  
oppressed.

He made his ways known to Moses  
and his works to the children of Israel. **R]**

The Lord is full of compassion and  
mercy,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.  
He will not always accuse us,  
nor will he keep his anger for ever.  
He has not dealt with us according to  
our sins,  
nor rewarded us according to our  
wickedness. **R**

For as the heavens are high above the  
earth,  
so is his mercy great upon those who  
fear him.

As far as the east is from the west,  
so far has he removed our sins from us.  
As a father cares for his children,  
so does the Lord care for those who  
fear him. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Romans 14:1-12**

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

Welcome those who are weak in faith,  
but not for the purpose of quarrelling  
over opinions. Some believe in eating  
anything, while the weak eat only  
vegetables. Those who eat must not  
despise those who abstain, and those  
who abstain must not pass judgement  
on those who eat; for God has  
welcomed them. Who are you to pass  
judgement on servants of another? It is  
before their own lord that they stand  
or fall. And they will be upheld, for  
the Lord is able to make them stand.  
Some judge one day to be better than  
another, while others judge all days to  
be alike. Let all be fully convinced in  
their own minds. Those who observe  
the day, observe it in honour of the  
Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honour  
of the Lord, since they give thanks to  
God; while those who abstain, abstain  
in honour of the Lord and give thanks  
to God. We do not live to ourselves,  
and we do not die to ourselves. If we  
live, we live to the Lord, and if we die,  
we die to the Lord; so then, whether  
we live or whether we die, we are the  
Lord's. For to this end Christ died and  
lived again, so that he might be Lord  
of both the dead and the living. Why  
do you pass judgement on your brother  
or sister? Or you, why do you despise  
your brother or sister? For we will all  
stand before the judgement seat of  
God. For

it is written, "As I live, says the Lord,  
every knee shall bow to me, and every  
tongue shall give praise to God." So  
then, each of us will be accountable  
to God.

## GOSPEL Matthew 18:21-35

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

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord,  
if another member of the church sins  
against me, how often should I forgive?  
As many as seven times?" Jesus said  
to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell  
you, seventy-seven times. For this  
reason the kingdom of heaven may  
be compared to a king who wished to  
settle accounts with his slaves. When  
he began the reckoning, one who owed  
him ten thousand talents was brought  
to him; and, as he could not pay, his  
lord ordered him to be sold, together  
with his wife and children and all his  
possessions, and payment to be made.  
So the slave fell on his knees before  
him, saying, 'Have patience with me,  
and I will pay you everything.' And out  
of pity for him, the lord of that slave  
released him and forgave him the debt.  
But that same slave, as he went out,  
came upon one of his fellow-slaves  
who owed him a hundred denarii; and  
seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay  
what you owe.' Then his fellow-slave  
fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have  
patience with me, and I will pay you.'  
But he refused; then he went and threw  
him into prison until he would pay  
the debt. When his fellow-slaves saw  
what had happened, they were greatly  
distressed, and they went and reported  
to their lord all that had taken place.  
Then his lord summoned him and said  
to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you  
all that debt because you pleaded with  
me. Should you not have had mercy  
on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on  
you?' And in anger his lord handed him  
over to be tortured until he would pay  
his entire debt. So my heavenly Father  
will also do to every one of you, if you  
do not forgive your brother or sister  
from your heart."

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God, the source of truth and love,  
keep us faithful to the apostles' teaching  
and fellowship,  
united in prayer and the breaking of  
bread,  
and one in joy and simplicity of heart,  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.