

## COLLECT

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus  
Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in  
heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not  
comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to  
strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our  
Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

(Alternative readings)

*The reading from Acts must be read  
as either the First or Second Reading.*

**Either Acts 1:15-17. 21-end**

*A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles.*

In those days Peter stood up among  
the believers (together the crowd  
numbered about one hundred and  
twenty people). He said, "Friends,  
the scripture had to be fulfilled, which  
the Holy Spirit through David foretold  
concerning Judas, who became a  
guide for those who arrested Jesus  
– for he was numbered among us  
and was allotted his share in this  
ministry. So one of the men who  
have accompanied us throughout the  
time that the Lord Jesus went in and  
out among us, beginning from the  
baptism of John until the day when  
he was taken up from us – one of  
these must become a witness with us  
to his resurrection." So they proposed  
two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who  
was also known as Justus, and  
Matthias. Then they prayed and said,  
"Lord, you know everyone's heart.  
Show us which one of these two you  
have chosen to take the place in this  
ministry and apostleship from which  
Judas turned aside to go to his own  
place." And they cast lots for them,  
and the lot fell on Matthias; and he  
was added to the eleven apostles.

Or **Ezekiel 36:24-28**

## PSALM Psalm 1

**R** *Happy are they who trust in the  
Lord.*

or

**R** *The Lord knows the way of the  
righteous.*

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. **R**

It is not so with the wicked:  
they are like chaff which the wind  
blows away;  
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

(Alternative readings)

**Either 1 John 5:9-13**

*A reading from the first letter of  
John.*

If we receive human testimony, the  
testimony of God is greater; for  
this is the testimony of God that  
he has testified to his Son. Those  
who believe in the Son of God have  
the testimony in their hearts. Those  
who do not believe in God have  
made him a liar by not believing in  
the testimony that God has given  
concerning his Son. And this is the  
testimony: God gave us eternal life,  
and this life is in his Son. Whoever  
has the Son has life; whoever does  
not have the Son of God does not  
have life. I write these things to you  
who believe in the name of the Son of  
God, so that you may know that you  
have eternal life.

Or **Acts 1:15-17. 21-end**

## GOSPEL John 17:6-19

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

Jesus looked up to heaven and  
prayed: "Father, I have made your

name known to those whom you  
gave me from the world. They were  
yours, and you gave them to me,  
and they have kept your word. Now  
they know that everything you have  
given me is from you; for the words  
that you gave to me I have given to  
them, and they have received them  
and know in truth that I came from  
you; and they have believed that you  
sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I  
am not asking on behalf of the world,  
but on behalf of those whom you  
gave me, because they are yours. All  
mine are yours, and yours are mine;  
and I have been glorified in them.  
And now I am no longer in the world,  
but they are in the world, and I am  
coming to you. Holy Father, protect  
them in your name that you have  
given me, so that they may be one,  
as we are one. While I was with them,  
I protected them in your name that  
you have given me. I guarded them,  
and not one of them was lost except  
the one destined to be lost, so that  
the scripture might be fulfilled. But  
now I am coming to you, and I speak  
these things in the world so that they  
may have my joy made complete in  
themselves. I have given them your  
word, and the world has hated them  
because they do not belong to the  
world, just as I do not belong to the  
world. I am not asking you to take  
them out of the world, but I ask you  
to protect them from the evil one.  
They do not belong to the world,  
just as I do not belong to the world.  
Sanctify them in the truth; your word  
is truth. As you have sent me into the  
world, so I have sent them into the  
world. And for their sakes I sanctify  
myself, so that they also may be  
sanctified in truth."

## POST COMMUNION

Eternal God, giver of love and power,  
your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into  
all the world  
to preach the gospel of his kingdom:  
confirm us in this mission,  
and help us to live the good news we  
proclaim;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.