

COLLECT

Lord, you have taught us
that all our doings without love are
nothing worth:
send your Holy Spirit
and pour into our hearts that most
excellent gift of love,
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,
without which whoever lives is counted
dead before you.
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's
sake,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7–13

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah cried out: O LORD, you have enticed me, and I was enticed; you have overpowered me, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughing-stock all day long; everyone mocks me. For whenever I speak, I must cry out, I must shout, "Violence and destruction!" For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. If I say, "I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name," then within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. For I hear many whispering: "Terror is all around! Denounce him! Let us denounce him!" All my close friends are watching for me to stumble. "Perhaps he can be enticed, and we can prevail against him, and take our revenge on him." But the LORD is with me like a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble, and they will not prevail. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonour will never be forgotten. O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous, you see the heart and the mind; let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause. Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hands of evildoers.

PSALM Psalm 69:8–11. (12–17). 18–20 (or 69:14–20)

R *Hide not your face from your servant, O Lord.*

For your sake have I suffered reproach; shame has covered my face. I have become a stranger to my kindred, an alien to my mother's children. **R**

Zeal for your house has eaten me up; the scorn of those who scorn you has fallen upon me.

I humbled myself with fasting, but that was turned to my reproach. **R**

I put on sack cloth also and became a byword among them. Those who sit at the gate murmur against me, and the drunkards make songs about me. **R**

But as for me, I make my prayer to you, O Lord; at an acceptable time, O God. Answer me, O God, in the abundance of your mercy and with your sure salvation. **R**

Draw me out of the mire, that I sink not; let me be rescued from those who hate me and out of the deep waters. Let not the water flood drown me, neither the deep swallow me up; let not the Pit shut its mouth upon me. **R**

Answer me, Lord, for your loving-kindness is good; turn to me in the multitude of your mercies. Hide not your face from your servant; be swift to answer me, for I am in trouble. Draw near to my soul and redeem me; deliver me because of my enemies. **R**

SECOND READING

Romans 6:1b–11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Should we continue in sin in order that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So

you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL Matthew 10:24–39

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

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them out with the following instruction: "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household. Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it."

POST COMMUNION

Loving Father,
we thank you for feeding us at the supper
of your Son:
sustain us with your Spirit,
that we may serve you here on earth
until our joy is complete in heaven,
and we share in the eternal banquet
with Jesus Christ our Lord.

