

**COLLECT**

Almighty Father,  
you have given your only Son to die  
for our sins  
and to rise again for our justification:  
grant us so to put away the leaven of  
malice and wickedness  
that we may always serve you  
in pureness of living and truth;  
through the merits of your Son Jesus  
Christ our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**FIRST READING**

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

**Either Acts 4:32-35**

*A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles.*

The whole group of those who  
believed were of one heart and soul,  
and no one claimed private ownership  
of any possessions, but everything  
they owned was held in common.  
With great power the apostles gave  
their testimony to the resurrection of  
the Lord Jesus, and great grace was  
upon them all. There was not a needy  
person among them, for as many as  
owned lands or houses sold them and  
brought the proceeds of what was  
sold. They laid it at the apostles' feet,  
and it was distributed to each as any  
had need.

**Or Exodus 14:10-end; 15:20-21**

**PSALM Psalm 133**

**R** *How good and pleasant it is  
to live together in unity.*

O how good and pleasant it is,  
when a family lives together in unity!  
It is like fine oil upon the head  
that runs down upon the beard,  
Upon the beard of Aaron,  
and runs down upon the collar of his  
robe. **R**

It is like the dew of Hermon  
that falls upon the hills of Zion.  
For there the Lord has ordained the  
blessing:  
life for evermore. **R**

**SECOND READING**

**Either 1 John 1:1 – 2:2**

*A reading from the first letter of John.*

We declare to you what was from  
the beginning, what we have heard,  
what we have seen with our eyes,  
what we have looked at and touched  
with our hands, concerning the word  
of life – this life was revealed, and  
we have seen it and testify to it, and  
declare to you the eternal life that was  
with the Father and was revealed to  
us – we declare to you what we have  
seen and heard so that you also may  
have fellowship with us; and truly our  
fellowship is with the Father and with  
his Son Jesus Christ. We are writing  
these things so that our joy may be  
complete. This is the message we  
have heard from him and proclaim to  
you, that God is light and in him there  
is no darkness at all. If we say that we  
have fellowship with him while we are  
walking in darkness, we lie and do not  
do what is true; but if we walk in the  
light as he himself is in the light, we  
have fellowship with one another, and  
the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses  
us from all sin. If we say that we have  
no sin, we deceive ourselves, and  
the truth is not in us. If we confess  
our sins, he who is faithful and just  
will forgive us our sins and cleanse  
us from all unrighteousness. If we say  
that we have not sinned, we make  
him a liar, and his word is not in us.  
My little children, I am writing these  
things to you so that you may not sin.  
But if anyone does sin, we have an  
advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ  
the righteous; and he is the atoning  
sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours  
only but also for the sins of the whole  
world.

**Or Acts 4:32-35**

**GOSPEL John 20:19-end**

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

It was evening on the first day of the  
week, and the doors of the house  
where the disciples had met were  
locked for fear of the Jews. Jesus  
came and stood among them and  
said, "Peace be with you." After he

said this, he showed them his hands  
and his side. Then the disciples  
rejoiced when they saw the Lord.  
Jesus said to them again, "Peace be  
with you. As the Father has sent me,  
so I send you." When he had said  
this, he breathed on them and said  
to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If  
you forgive the sins of any, they are  
forgiven them; if you retain the sins of  
any, they are retained." But Thomas  
(who was called the Twin), one of the  
twelve, was not with them when Jesus  
came. So the other disciples told him,  
"We have seen the Lord." But he said  
to them, "Unless I see the mark of the  
nails in his hands, and put my finger  
in the mark of the nails and my hand  
in his side, I will not believe." A week  
later his disciples were again in the  
house, and Thomas was with them.  
Although the doors were shut, Jesus  
came and stood among them and  
said, "Peace be with you." Then he  
said to Thomas, "Put your finger here  
and see my hands. Reach out your  
hand and put it in my side. Do not  
doubt but believe." Thomas answered  
him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus  
said to him, "Have you believed  
because you have seen me? Blessed  
are those who have not seen and yet  
have come to believe." Now Jesus  
did many other signs in the presence  
of his disciples, which are not written  
in this book. But these are written so  
that you may come to believe that  
Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,  
and that through believing you may  
have life in his name.

**POST COMMUNION**

Lord God our Father,  
through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
you have assured your children of  
eternal life  
and in baptism have made us one  
with him:  
deliver us from the death of sin  
and raise us to new life in your love,  
in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.



## COLLECT

Almighty Father,  
who in your great mercy gladdened  
the disciples  
with the sight of the risen Lord;  
give us such knowledge of his  
presence with us,  
that we may be strengthened and  
sustained by his risen life  
and serve you continually in  
righteousness and 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

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

Either **Acts 3:12-19**

*A reading from the Acts of the  
Apostles.*

Peter addressed the people, "You  
Israelites, why do you wonder at this,  
or why do you stare at us, as though  
by our own power or piety we had  
made him walk? The God of Abraham,  
the God of Isaac, and the God of  
Jacob, the God of our ancestors has  
glorified his servant Jesus, whom  
you handed over and rejected in  
the presence of Pilate, though he  
had decided to release him. But you  
rejected the Holy and Righteous One  
and asked to have a murderer given  
to you, and you killed the Author of  
life, whom God raised from the dead.  
To this we are witnesses. And by faith  
in his name, his name itself has made  
this man strong, whom you see and  
know; and the faith that is through  
Jesus has given him this perfect health  
in the presence of all of you. And  
now, friends, I know that you acted  
in ignorance, as did also your rulers.  
In this way God fulfilled what he had  
foretold through all the prophets,  
that his Messiah would suffer. Repent  
therefore, and turn to God so that  
your sins may be wiped out."

Or **Zephaniah 3:14-end**

## PSALM Psalm 4

**R** *Lift up the light of your  
countenance upon us, O Lord.*

Answer me when I call, O God,  
defender of my cause;  
you set me free when I am hard-  
pressed;  
have mercy on me and hear my prayer.  
"You mortals, how long will you  
dishonour my glory;  
how long will you worship dumb idols  
and run after false gods?" **R**

Know that the Lord does wonders for  
the faithful;  
when I call upon the Lord, he will hear  
me.

Tremble, then, and do not sin;  
speak to your heart in silence upon  
your bed. **R**

Offer the appointed sacrifices  
and put your trust in the Lord.  
Many are saying,  
"O that we might see better times!"  
Lift up the light of your countenance  
upon us, O Lord. **R**

You have put gladness in my heart,  
more than when grain and wine and  
oil increase.  
I lie down in peace; at once I fall  
asleep;  
for only you, Lord, make me dwell in  
safety. **R**

## SECOND READING

Either **1 John 3:1-7**

*A reading from the first letter of John.*

See what love the Father has given  
us, that we should be called children  
of God; and that is what we are. The  
reason the world does not know us  
is that it did not know him. Beloved,  
we are God's children now; what we  
will be has not yet been revealed.  
What we do know is this: when he is  
revealed, we will be like him, for we  
will see him as he is. And all who have  
this hope in him purify themselves,  
just as he is pure. Everyone who  
commits sin is guilty of lawlessness;  
sin is lawlessness. You know that he  
was revealed to take away sins, and  
in him there is no sin. No one who  
abides in him sins; no one who sins  
has either seen him or known him.  
Little children, let no one deceive you.

Everyone who does what is right is  
righteous, just as he is righteous.

Or **Acts 3:12-19**

## GOSPEL Luke 24:36b-48

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

While the eleven and their  
companions were talking about  
what they had heard, Jesus himself  
stood among them and said to them,  
"Peace be with you." They were  
startled and terrified, and thought that  
they were seeing a ghost. He said to  
them, "Why are you frightened, and  
why do doubts arise in your hearts?  
Look at my hands and my feet; see  
that it is I myself. Touch me and see;  
for a ghost does not have flesh and  
bones as you see that I have." And  
when he had said this, he showed  
them his hands and his feet. While  
in their joy they were disbelieving  
and still wondering, he said to them,  
"Have you anything here to eat?"  
They gave him a piece of broiled  
fish, and he took it and ate in their  
presence. Then he said to them,  
"These are my words that I spoke to  
you while I was still with you – that  
everything written about me in the  
law of Moses, the prophets, and the  
psalms must be fulfilled." Then he  
opened their minds to understand  
the scriptures, and he said to them,  
"Thus it is written, that the Messiah  
is to suffer and to rise from the dead  
on the third day, and that repentance  
and forgiveness of sins is to be  
proclaimed in his name to all nations,  
beginning from Jerusalem. You are  
witnesses of these things."

## POST COMMUNION

Living God,  
your Son made himself known to his  
disciples  
in the breaking of bread:  
open the eyes of our faith,  
that we may see him in all his  
redeeming work;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.

## Additional Text and Prayers

### Call to worship

*These may be spoken by three people from different parts of the church:*

In times of surprise and joy,  
the peace of Christ be with you.

In times of fear and despair,  
the peace of Christ be with you.

In times of challenge and new beginnings,  
the peace of Christ be with you.

### A prayer of confession

*These responses may be used after the blessing.*

Forgive us, God,  
when we become set in our ways,  
refusing to change, believing that what we have  
always known is the only truth.

Living God:

**forgive us and startle us into new life.**

Forgive us when we set up barriers,  
not recognizing your voice or presence in other  
cultures or faiths, or in neighbours who are  
different from us.

Living God:

**forgive us and startle us into new life.**

Forgive us when we have been so preoccupied  
with maintaining structures and customs that  
we have missed the moment of revelation, and  
been too busy for new insights.

Living God:

**forgive us and startle us into new life.**

*An absolution is given.*

### Dismissal

Refreshed by this time in your house, Lord,  
we go out to witness in your world.  
Help us to live the truths that we have learned,  
so all may see your presence in our lives.

**Amen.**

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the  
resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of  
righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which  
are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

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

### Either Acts 4:5-12

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

The Jewish rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, "By what power or by what name did you do this?" Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is 'the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.' There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

Or **Genesis 7:1-5. 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13**

## PSALM Psalm 23

**R** *The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.*

The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.  
He makes me lie down in green  
pastures  
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He revives my soul  
and guides me along right pathways  
for his name's sake.  
Though I walk through the valley of  
the shadow of death,  
I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff, they  
comfort me. **R**

You spread a table before me  
in the presence of those who  
trouble me;  
you have anointed my head with oil,  
and my cup is running over.  
Surely your goodness and mercy  
shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the  
Lord for ever. **R**

## SECOND READING

### Either 1 John 3:16-end

*A reading from the first letter of John.*

We know love by this, that the Son of God laid down his life for us – and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases God. And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who

obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

### Or Acts 4:5-12

## GOSPEL John 10:11-18

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

Jesus said to the Pharisees: "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away – and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

## POST COMMUNION

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to  
be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his  
life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his  
steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

## Additional Text and Prayers

### Call to worship

In God we find our soul's restoration:

**he leads his flock as the good shepherd,  
our Lord.**

In God we learn to fear no evil:

**he leads his flock as the good shepherd,  
our Lord.**

In God we are granted goodness and love:

**he leads his flock as the good shepherd,  
our Lord.**

May each of us sense the guidance of God and  
the blessings he pours upon his people.

### Dismissal

In the name of the Good Shepherd,  
who sacrificed his all for his flock,  
go onward from this place.

In the name of the Good Shepherd,  
who calls us to sacrifice for his flock,  
go onward from this place.

And as he drives us on,  
may we know his presence with us,  
night and day, now and always.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
who through your only-begotten Son  
Jesus Christ  
have overcome death and opened to us  
the gate of everlasting life:  
grant that, as by your grace going before  
us you put into our minds good desires,  
so by your continual help  
we may bring them to good effect;  
through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

## FIRST READING

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

Either **Acts 8:26-end**

*A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.*

An angel of the Lord said to Philip,  
"Get up and go toward the south to the  
road that goes down from Jerusalem  
to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.)  
So he got up and went. Now there was  
an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of  
the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians,  
in charge of her entire treasury. He had  
come to Jerusalem to worship and was  
returning home; seated in his chariot,  
he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then  
the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this  
chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to  
it and heard him reading the prophet  
Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand  
what you are reading?" He replied, "How  
can I, unless someone guides me?" And  
he invited Philip to get in and sit beside  
him. Now the passage of the scripture  
that he was reading was this: "Like a  
sheep he was led to the slaughter, and  
like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth. In his  
humiliation justice was denied him. Who  
can describe his generation? For his life is  
taken away from the earth." The eunuch  
asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask  
you, does the prophet say this, about  
himself or about someone else?" Then  
Philip began to speak, and starting with  
this scripture, he proclaimed to him the  
good news about Jesus. As they were  
going along the road, they came to some  
water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here  
is water! What is to prevent me from  
being baptized?" He commanded the  
chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip  
and the eunuch, went down into the  
water, and Philip baptized him. When  
they came up out of the water, the Spirit  
of the Lord snatched Philip away; the

eunuch saw him no more, and went on  
his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself  
at Azotus, and as he was passing through  
the region, he proclaimed the good  
news to all the towns until he came to  
Caesarea.

Or **Baruch 3:9-15. 32 – 4:4**

Or **Genesis 22:1-18**

**PSALM Psalm 22:25-end**

**R** *All the ends of the earth shall turn to  
you, O Lord.*

My praise is of him in the great assembly,  
I will perform my vows  
in the presence of those who worship  
him.

The poor shall eat and be satisfied,  
and those who seek the Lord shall praise  
him:

"May your heart live for ever!" **R**

All the ends of the earth  
shall remember and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall bow before him.

For kingship belongs to the Lord;  
he rules over the nations. **R**

To him alone all who sleep in the earth  
bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust fall before  
him.

My soul shall live for him;  
my descendants shall serve him;  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.  
They shall come and make known to a  
people yet unborn  
the saving deeds that he has done. **R**

**SECOND READING**

Either **1 John 4:7-end**

*A reading from the first letter of John.*

Beloved, let us love one another, because  
love is from God; everyone who loves is  
born of God and knows God. Whoever  
does not love does not know God, for  
God is love. God's love was revealed  
among us in this way: God sent his only  
Son into the world so that we might live  
through him. In this is love, not that we  
loved God but that he loved us and sent  
his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for  
our sins. Beloved, since God loved us so  
much, we also ought to love one another.  
No one has ever seen God; if we love one  
another, God lives in us, and his love is  
perfected in us. By this we know that we  
abide in him and he in us, because he has  
given us of his Spirit. And we have seen  
and do testify that the Father has sent  
his Son as the Saviour of the world. God

abides in those who confess that Jesus is  
the Son of God, and they abide in God.  
So we have known and believe the love  
that God has for us. God is love, and  
those who abide in love abide in God,  
and God abides in them. Love has been  
perfected among us in this: that we may  
have boldness on the day of judgement,  
because as he is, so are we in this world.  
There is no fear in love, but perfect love  
casts out fear; for fear has to do with  
punishment, and whoever fears has not  
reached perfection in love. We love  
because he first loved us. Those who say,  
"I love God," and hate their brothers or  
sisters, are liars; for those who do not love  
a brother or sister whom they have seen,  
cannot love God whom they have not  
seen. The commandment we have from  
him is this: those who love God must love  
their brothers and sisters also.

Or **Acts 8:26-end**

**GOSPEL John 15:1-8**

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

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the true  
vine, and my Father is the vine-grower.  
He removes every branch in me that  
bears no fruit. Every branch that bears  
fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit.  
You have already been cleansed by the  
word that I have spoken to you. Abide in  
me as I abide in you. Just as the branch  
cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides  
in the vine, neither can you unless you  
abide in me. I am the vine, you are the  
branches. Those who abide in me and I  
in them bear much fruit, because apart  
from me you can do nothing. Whoever  
does not abide in me is thrown away  
like a branch and withers; such branches  
are gathered, thrown into the fire, and  
burned. If you abide in me, and my words  
abide in you, ask for whatever you wish,  
and it will be done for you. My Father is  
glorified by this, that you bear much fruit  
and become my disciples."

**POST COMMUNION**

Eternal God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the way, the  
truth, and the life:  
grant us to walk in his way,  
to rejoice in his truth,  
and to share his risen life;  
who is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

## Additional Text and Prayers

### Call to worship

God is the Creator.

**We are the created.**

Let us abide in the Creator.

Jesus is the Vine.

**We are the branches.**

Let us abide in the Vine.

The Spirit can live in us.

**We can live in the Spirit.**

Let us abide in the Spirit.

Our God is a Trinitarian God,

**abiding in relationship.**

We too, shall abide in the Trinity.

### A pruning prayer

For the times when I've not been fruitful,

**Lord, cut away the dead wood.**

For the times when I've not helped others to  
grow,

**Lord, cut away the dead wood.**

For the times when I've clung on to my  
weakness,

**Lord, cut away the dead wood.**

For the times I've separated myself from you,

**Lord, cut away the dead wood.**

**Amen.**

### Dismissal

God abides in us and we abide in God.

So as we go forth from this place,

may our God of goodness and nurture,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, stay with us

and we stay with him, now and always.

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**