

## COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your  
commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
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 2:18-24

*A reading from the book of Genesis.*

The LORD God said, "It is not good  
that the man should be alone; I will  
make him a helper as his partner."  
So out of the ground the LORD God  
formed every animal of the field and  
every bird of the air, and brought them  
to the man to see what he would call  
them; and whatever the man called  
every living creature, that was its name.  
The man gave names to all cattle, and  
to the birds of the air, and to every  
animal of the field; but for the man  
there was not found a helper as his  
partner. So the LORD God caused a  
deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he  
slept; then he took one of his ribs and  
closed up its place with flesh. And the  
rib that the LORD God had taken from  
the man he made into a woman and  
brought her to the man. Then the man  
said, "This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh; this one shall be  
called Woman, for out of Man this one  
was taken." Therefore a man leaves his  
father and his mother and clings to his  
wife, and they become one flesh.

## PSALM Psalm 8

**R** *How exalted is your name in all the world!*

O Lord our governor,  
how exalted is your name in all the  
world!  
Out of the mouths of infants and  
children  
your majesty is praised above the  
heavens.  
You have set up a stronghold against  
your adversaries,  
to quell the enemy and the avenger. **R**  
When I consider your heavens, the work  
of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in  
their courses,  
What are mortals, that you should be  
mindful of them?

mere human beings, that you should  
seek them out? **R**

You have made them little lower than  
the angels;  
you adorn them with glory and honour.  
You give them mastery over the works  
of your hands;  
and put all things under their feet, **R**

All sheep and oxen,  
even the wild beasts of the field,  
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,  
and whatsoever walks in the paths of  
the sea.  
O Lord our governor,  
how exalted is your name in all the  
world! **R**

## SECOND READING

**Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12**

*A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors  
in many and various ways by the  
prophets, but in these last days he  
has spoken to us by a Son, whom he  
appointed heir of all things, through  
whom he also created the worlds. He  
is the reflection of God's glory and the  
exact imprint of God's very being, and  
he sustains all things by his powerful  
word. When he had made purification  
for sins, he sat down at the right hand  
of the Majesty on high, having become  
as much superior to angels as the name  
he has inherited is more excellent  
than theirs. Now God did not subject  
the coming world, about which we  
are speaking, to angels. But someone  
has testified somewhere, "What are  
human beings that you are mindful  
of them, or mortals, that you care for  
them? You have made them for a little  
while lower than the angels; you have  
crowned them with glory and honour,  
subjecting all things under their feet."  
Now in subjecting all things to them,  
God left nothing outside their control.  
As it is, we do not yet see everything  
in subjection to them, but we do see  
Jesus, who for a little while was made  
lower than the angels, now crowned  
with glory and honour because of  
the suffering of death, so that by the  
grace of God he might taste death for  
everyone. It was fitting that God, for  
whom and through whom all things  
exist, in bringing many children to  
glory, should make the pioneer of their  
salvation perfect through sufferings. For  
the one who sanctifies and those who

are sanctified all have one Father. For  
this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call  
them brothers and sisters, saying, "I will  
proclaim your name to my brothers and  
sisters, in the midst of the congregation  
I will praise you."

## GOSPEL Mark 10:2-16

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

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus  
they asked, "Is it lawful for a man to  
divorce his wife?" He answered them,  
"What did Moses command you?" They  
said, "Moses allowed a man to write a  
certificate of dismissal and to divorce  
her." But Jesus said to them, "Because  
of your hardness of heart he wrote this  
commandment for you. But from the  
beginning of creation, 'God made them  
male and female.' 'For this reason a  
man shall leave his father and mother  
and be joined to his wife, and the two  
shall become one flesh.' So they are no  
longer two, but one flesh. Therefore  
what God has joined together, let no  
one separate." Then in the house the  
disciples asked him again about this  
matter. Jesus said to them, "Whoever  
divorces his wife and marries another  
commits adultery against her; and if  
she divorces her husband and marries  
another, she commits adultery." People  
were bringing little children to him in  
order that he might touch them; and  
the disciples spoke sternly to them. But  
when Jesus saw this, he was indignant  
and said to them, "Let the little children  
come to me; do not stop them; for it  
is to such as these that the kingdom of  
God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever  
does not receive the kingdom of God  
as a little child will never enter it." And  
he took them up in his arms, laid his  
hands on them, and blessed them.

## POST COMMUNION

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for  
this sacred feast:  
for here we receive you,  
here the memory of your passion is  
renewed,  
here our minds are filled with grace,  
and here a pledge of future glory is  
given,  
when we shall feast at that table where  
you reign  
with all your saints for ever.