

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.