

## COLLECT

Lord of all power and might,  
the author and giver of all good  
things:  
graft in our hearts the love of your  
name,  
increase in us true religion,  
nourish us with all goodness,  
and of your great mercy keep us in  
the same;  
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

**Ecclesiastes 1:2. 12-14; 2:18-23**

*A reading from the book of Ecclesiastes.*

Vanity of vanities, says the Teacher, vanity of vanities! All is vanity. I, the Teacher, when king over Israel in Jerusalem, applied my mind to seek and to search out by wisdom all that is done under heaven; it is an unhappy business that God has given to human beings to be busy with. I saw all the deeds that are done under the sun; and see, all is vanity and a chasing after wind. I hated all my toil in which I had toiled under the sun, seeing that I must leave it to those who come after me – and who knows whether they will be wise or foolish? Yet they will be master of all for which I toiled and used my wisdom under the sun. This also is vanity. So I turned and gave my heart up to despair concerning all the toil of my labours under the sun, because sometimes one who has toiled with wisdom and knowledge and skill must leave all to be enjoyed by another who did not toil for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. What do mortals get from all the toil and strain with which they toil under the sun? For all their days are full of pain, and their work is a vexation; even at night their minds do not rest. This also is vanity.

## PSALM Psalm 49:1-12

**R** *My mouth, O Lord, shall speak of wisdom.*

Hear this, all you peoples;  
hearken, all you who dwell in the world,  
you of high degree and low, rich and  
poor together.

My mouth shall speak of wisdom,  
and my heart shall meditate on  
understanding. **R**

I will incline my ear to a proverb  
and set forth my riddle upon the  
harp.

Why should I be afraid in evil days,  
when the wickedness of those at my  
heels surrounds me,  
The wickedness of those  
who put their trust in their goods,  
and boast of their great riches? **R**

We can never ransom ourselves,  
or deliver to God the price of our life;  
For the ransom of our life is so great,  
that we should never have enough  
to pay it,  
In order to live for ever and ever,  
and never see the grave. **R**

For we see that the wise die also;  
like the dull and stupid they perish  
and leave their wealth to those who  
come after them.  
Their graves shall be their homes for  
ever,  
their dwelling places from generation  
to generation,  
though they call the lands after their  
own names. **R**

Even though honoured, they cannot  
live for ever;  
they are like the beasts that perish.  
Such is the way of those  
who foolishly trust in themselves,  
and the end of those who delight in  
their own words. **R**

## SECOND READING

**Colossians 3:1-11**

*A reading from the letter of Paul to the Colossians.*

If you have been raised with Christ,  
seek the things that are above, where  
Christ is, seated at the right hand of  
God. Set your minds on things that  
are above, not on things that are on  
earth, for you have died, and your life  
is hidden with Christ in God. When  
Christ who is your life is revealed,  
then you also will be revealed with  
him in glory. Put to death, therefore,  
whatever in you is earthly: fornication,  
impurity, passion, evil desire, and  
greed (which is idolatry). On account  
of these the wrath of God is coming  
on those who are disobedient. These  
are the ways you also once followed,

when you were living that life. But  
now you must get rid of all such things  
– anger, wrath, malice, slander, and  
abusive language from your mouth. Do  
not lie to one another, seeing that you  
have stripped off the old self with its  
practices and have clothed yourselves  
with the new self, which is being  
renewed in knowledge according  
to the image of its creator. In that  
renewal there is no longer Greek and  
Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised,  
barbarian, Scythian, slave and free; but  
Christ is all and in all!

## GOSPEL Luke 12:13-21

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

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus,  
“Teacher, tell my brother to divide  
the family inheritance with me.” But  
he said to him, “Friend, who set me  
to be a judge or arbitrator over you?”  
And he said to the crowd, “Take care!  
Be on your guard against all kinds of  
greed; for one’s life does not consist  
in the abundance of possessions.”  
Then he told them a parable: “The  
land of a rich man produced  
abundantly. And he thought to  
himself, ‘What should I do, for I have  
no place to store my crops?’ Then he  
said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down  
my barns and build larger ones, and  
there I will store all my grain and  
my goods. And I will say to my soul,  
“Soul, you have ample goods laid up  
for many years; relax, eat, drink, be  
merry.”’ But God said to him, ‘You  
fool! This very night your life is being  
demanded of you. And the things  
you have prepared, whose will they  
be?’ So it is with those who store up  
treasures for themselves but are not  
rich towards God.”

## POST COMMUNION

Lord God, whose Son is the true vine  
and the source of life,  
ever giving himself that the world  
may live:  
may we so receive within ourselves  
the power of his death and passion  
that, in his saving cup, we may share  
his glory and be made perfect in his  
love;  
for he is alive and reigns, now and for  
ever.