

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 Isaiah 25:1-9

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

O LORD, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name; for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt. Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled. On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-matured wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-matured wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death for ever. Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the LORD has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the LORD for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

PSALM Psalm 23

R *I will dwell your house for ever.*

The Lord is my shepherd;
therefore can I lack nothing.



I will dwell in your house for ever.

He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters. **R**

He shall refresh my soul
and guide me in the paths of
righteousness for his name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death,
I will 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 shall be full.
Surely goodness and loving 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

Philippians 4:1-9

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

My brothers and sisters, whom I love
and long for, my joy and crown, stand
firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.
I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be
of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I
ask you also, my loyal companion, help
these women, for they have struggled
beside me in the work of the gospel,
together with Clement and the rest
of my co-workers, whose names are
in the book of life. Rejoice in the Lord
always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let
your gentleness be known to everyone.
The Lord is near. Do not worry about
anything, but in everything by prayer
and supplication with thanksgiving let
your requests be made known to God.
And the peace of God, which surpasses
all understanding, will guard your hearts
and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally,
beloved, whatever is true, whatever is
honourable, whatever is just, whatever is
pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is
commendable, if there is any excellence
and if there is anything worthy of praise,
think about these things. Keep on doing
the things that you have learned and
received and heard and seen in me, and
the God of peace will be with you.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14

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

Once more Jesus spoke to the chief
priests and Pharisees in parables,
saying: "The kingdom of heaven may
be compared to a king who gave a
wedding banquet for his son. He sent
his slaves to call those who had been
invited to the wedding banquet, but
they would not come. Again he sent
other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who
have been invited: Look, I have prepared
my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves
have been slaughtered, and everything
is ready; come to the wedding banquet.'
But they made light of it and went
away, one to his farm, another to his
business, while the rest seized his slaves,
maltreated them, and killed them. The
king was enraged. He sent his troops,
destroyed those murderers, and burned
their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The
wedding is ready, but those invited were
not worthy. Go therefore into the main
streets, and invite everyone you find
to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves
went out into the streets and gathered
all whom they found, both good and
bad; so the wedding hall was filled with
guests. But when the king came in to
see the guests, he noticed a man there
who was not wearing a wedding robe,
and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you
get in here without a wedding robe?'
And he was speechless. Then the king
said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand
and foot, and throw him into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping
and gnashing of teeth.' For many are
called, but few are chosen."

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.