

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

(Alternative readings)
*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

(Alternative readings)

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.