

## COLLECT

Almighty God,  
you have created the heavens and the  
earth  
and made us in your own image:  
teach us to discern your hand in all  
your works  
and your likeness in all your children;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit  
reigns supreme over all things,  
now and for ever.

## FIRST READING Proverbs 8:1. 22-31

*A reading from the book of Proverbs.*

Does not wisdom call, and does not  
understanding raise her voice? The  
LORD created me at the beginning  
of his work, the first of his acts of  
long ago. Ages ago I was set up,  
at the first, before the beginning  
of the earth. When there were no  
depths I was brought forth, when  
there were no springs abounding  
with water. Before the mountains had  
been shaped, before the hills, I was  
brought forth – when he had not yet  
made earth and fields, or the world's  
first bits of soil. When he established  
the heavens, I was there, when he  
drew a circle on the face of the deep,  
when he made firm the skies above,  
when he established the fountains of  
the deep, when he assigned to the  
sea its limit, so that the waters might  
not transgress his command, when  
he marked out the foundations of  
the earth, then I was beside him, like  
a master worker; and I was daily his  
delight, rejoicing before him always,  
rejoicing in his inhabited world and  
delighting in the human race.

## PSALM Psalm 104:25-37

**R** *Send forth your Spirit, O Lord,  
and renew the face of the earth.*

O Lord, how manifold are your works!  
in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures. **R**

Yonder is the great and wide sea  
with its living things too many to  
number,  
creatures both small and great.

There move the ships,  
and there is that Leviathan,  
which you have made for the sport of  
it. **R**

All of them look to you  
to give them their food in due season.  
You give it to them, they gather it;  
you open your hand and they are  
filled with good things.  
You hide your face and they are  
terrified;  
you take away their breath  
and they die and return to their dust. **R**

You send forth your Spirit and they  
are created;  
and so you renew the face of the earth.  
May the glory of the Lord endure for  
ever;  
may the Lord rejoice in all his works.  
He looks at the earth and it trembles,  
he touches the mountains and they  
smoke. **R**

I will sing to the Lord as long as I live;  
I will praise my God while I have my  
being.  
May these words of mine please him;  
I will rejoice in the Lord.  
Let sinners be consumed from the earth,  
and the wicked be no more.  
Bless the Lord, O my soul.  
Alleluia! **R**

## SECOND READING Colossians 1:15-20

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

Christ is the image of the invisible  
God, the firstborn of all creation; for  
in him all things in heaven and on  
earth were created, things visible  
and invisible, whether thrones or  
dominions or rulers or powers – all  
things have been created through  
him and for him. He himself is before  
all things, and in him all things hold  
together. He is the head of the body,  
the church; he is the beginning, the  
firstborn from the dead, so that he  
might come to have first place in  
everything. For in him all the fullness  
of God was pleased to dwell, and  
through him God was pleased

to reconcile to himself all things,  
whether on earth or in heaven, by  
making peace through the blood of  
his cross.

## GOSPEL John 1:1-14

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

In the beginning was the Word,  
and the Word was with God, and  
the Word was God. He was in the  
beginning with God. All things came  
into being through him, and without  
him not one thing came into being.  
What has come into being in him  
was life, and the life was the light  
of all people. The light shines in the  
darkness, and the darkness did not  
overcome it. There was a man sent  
from God, whose name was John.  
He came as a witness to testify to  
the light, so that all might believe  
through him. He himself was not the  
light, but he came to testify to the  
light. The true light, which enlightens  
everyone, was coming into the world.  
He was in the world, and the world  
came into being through him; yet the  
world did not know him. He came  
to what was his own, and his own  
people did not accept him. But to all  
who received him, who believed in  
his name, he gave power to become  
children of God, who were born, not  
of blood or of the will of the flesh or  
of the will of man, but of God. And  
the Word became flesh and lived  
among us, and we have seen his  
glory, the glory as of a father's only  
son, full of grace and truth.

## POST COMMUNION

God our creator,  
by your gift  
the tree of life was set at the heart of  
the earthly paradise,  
and the bread of life at the heart of  
your Church:  
may we who have been nourished at  
your table on earth  
be transformed by the glory of the  
Saviour's cross  
and enjoy the delights of eternity;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.