

**COLLECT**

God of compassion,  
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,  
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,  
and on the cross drew the whole human family  
to himself:

strengthen us in our daily living  
that in joy and in sorrow  
we may know the power of your presence  
to bind together and to heal;  
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** (Alternative readings)

*Either* **Exodus 2:1-10**

*A reading from the book of Exodus.*  
A man from the house of Levi went and  
married a Levite woman. The woman  
conceived and bore a son; and when she  
saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for  
three months. When she could hide him no  
longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and  
plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put  
the child in it and placed it among the reeds  
on the bank of the river. His sister stood at  
a distance, to see what would happen to  
him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down  
to bathe at the river, while her attendants  
walked beside the river. She saw the basket  
among the reeds and sent her maid to bring  
it. When she opened it, she saw the child.  
He was crying, and she took pity on him,  
"This must be one of the Hebrews' children,"  
she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's  
daughter, "Shall I go and get you a nurse  
from the Hebrew women to nurse the child  
for you?" Pharaoh's daughter said to her,  
"Yes." So the girl went and called the child's  
mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take  
this child and nurse it for me, and I will give  
you your wages." So the woman took the  
child and nursed it. When the child grew up,  
she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and  
she took him as her son. She named him  
Moses, "because," she said, "I drew him out  
of the water."

*Or* **1 Samuel 1:20-end**

*A reading from the first book of Samuel.*  
Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named  
him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him  
of the LORD." The man Elkanah and all his  
household went up to offer to the LORD  
the yearly sacrifice, and to pay his vow. But  
Hannah did not go up, for she said to her  
husband, "As soon as the child is weaned,  
I will bring him, that he may appear in the  
presence of the LORD, and remain there for  
ever; I will offer him as a nazirite for all time."  
Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Do what  
seems best to you, wait until you have weaned  
him; only – may the LORD establish his word."  
So the woman remained and nursed her son,  
until she weaned him. When she had weaned  
him, she took him up with her, along with a

three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a  
skin of wine. She brought him to the house of  
the LORD at Shiloh; and the child was young.  
Then they slaughtered the bull, and they  
brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh,  
my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman  
who was standing here in your presence,  
praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed;  
and the LORD has granted me the petition  
that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him  
to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to  
the LORD." She left him there for the LORD.

**PSALM** *Either* **Psalm 34:11-20**

**R** [Come, children, and listen to me:]  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Come, children, and listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.  
Who among you loves life  
and desires long life to enjoy prosperity? **R**

Keep your tongue from evil-speaking  
and your lips from lying words.  
Turn from evil and do good;  
seek peace and pursue it. **R**

The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous,  
and his ears are open to their cry.  
The face of the Lord is against those who  
do evil,  
to root out the remembrance of them from  
the earth. **R**

The righteous cry and the Lord hears them  
and delivers them from all their troubles.  
The Lord is near to the brokenhearted  
and will save those whose spirits are crushed. **R**

Many are the troubles of the righteous,  
but the Lord will deliver him out of them all.  
He will keep safe all his bones;  
not one of them shall be broken. **R**

*Or* **Psalm 127:1-4**

**R** *It is the Lord who builds the house.*

Unless the Lord builds the house,  
their labour is in vain who build it.  
Unless the Lord watches over the city,  
in vain the guard keeps vigil. **R**

It is in vain that you rise so early  
and go to bed so late;  
vain, too, to eat the bread of toil,  
for he gives to his beloved sleep.  
Children are a heritage from the Lord,  
and the fruit of the womb is a gift. **R**

**SECOND READING** (Alternative readings)

*Either* **2 Corinthians 1:3-7**

*A reading from the second letter of Paul to the  
Corinthians.*

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord  
Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the  
God of all consolation, who consoles us in  
all our affliction, so that we may be able to  
console those who are in any affliction with  
the consolation with which we ourselves are  
consoled by God. For just as the sufferings

of Christ are abundant for us, so also our  
consolation is abundant through Christ. If we  
are being afflicted, it is for your consolation  
and salvation; if we are being consoled, it is  
for your consolation, which you experience  
when you patiently endure the same sufferings  
that we are also suffering. Our hope for you is  
unshaken; for we know that as you share in our  
sufferings, so also you share in our consolation.

*Or* **Colossians 3:12-17**

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

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved,  
clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness,  
humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with  
one another and, if anyone has a complaint  
against another, forgive each other; just as  
the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must  
forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love,  
which binds everything together in perfect  
harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in  
your hearts, to which indeed you were called  
in the one body. And be thankful. Let the  
word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and  
admonish one another in all wisdom; and with  
gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns,  
and spiritual songs to God. And whatever  
you do, in word or deed, do everything in the  
name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God  
the Father through him.

**GOSPEL** (Alternative readings)

*Either* **Luke 2:33-35**

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

The child's father and mother were amazed  
at what was being said about Jesus. Then  
Simeon blessed them and said to his mother  
Mary, "This child is destined for the falling  
and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a  
sign that will be opposed so that the inner  
thoughts of many will be revealed – and a  
sword will pierce your own soul too."

*Or* **John 19:25b-27**

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

Standing near the cross of Jesus were his  
mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the  
wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When  
Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom  
he loved standing beside her, he said to his  
mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he  
said to the disciple, "Here is your mother."  
And from that hour the disciple took her into  
his own home.

**POST COMMUNION**

Loving God,  
as a mother feeds her children at the breast  
you feed us in this sacrament  
with the food and drink of eternal life:  
help us who have tasted your goodness  
to grow in grace within the household of faith;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.