

## 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.