

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.