

COLLECT

God our redeemer,
who prepared the Blessed Virgin
Mary
to be the mother of your Son:
grant that, as she looked for his
coming as our saviour,
so we may be ready to greet him
when he comes again as our judge;
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING Isaiah 7:10-16

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying,
"Ask a sign of the LORD your
God; let it be deep as Sheol or
high as heaven." But Ahaz said,
"I will not ask, and I will not put
the LORD to the test." Then
Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house
of David! Is it too little for you
to weary mortals, that you weary
my God also? Therefore the Lord
himself will give you a sign. Look,
the young woman is with child and
shall bear a son, and shall name
him Immanuel. He shall eat curds
and honey by the time he knows
how to refuse the evil and choose
the good. For before the child
knows how to refuse the evil and
choose the good, the land before
whose two kings you are in dread
will be deserted."

PSALM Psalm 80:1-8. 18-20

[80:1-8]

R Turn us again, O God; show the
light of your countenance,
and we shall be saved.

Hear, O Shepherd of Israel,
you that led Joseph like a flock;
Shine forth, you that are
enthroned upon the cherubim,
before Ephraim, Benjamin and
Manasseh.



Turn us a-gain, O God, show the light of your coun-ten-ance, and we shall be saved.

Stir up your mighty strength
and come to our salvation. **R**

O Lord God of hosts,
how long will you be angry at your
people's prayer?
You feed them with the bread of
tears;
you give them abundance of tears
to drink.
You have made us the derision of
our neighbours
and our enemies laugh us to scorn. **R**

Let your hand be upon the man at
your right hand,
the son of man you made so
strong for yourself.
And so will we not go back from
you;
give us life, and we shall call upon
your name. **R**

SECOND READING Romans 1:1-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ,
called to be an apostle, set apart
for the gospel of God, which he
promised beforehand through his
prophets in the holy scriptures,
the gospel concerning his Son,
who was descended from David
according to the flesh and was
declared to be Son of God with
power according to the spirit
of holiness by resurrection from
the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through Christ we have received
grace and apostleship to bring
about the obedience of faith
among all the Gentiles for the sake
of his name, including yourselves
who are called to belong to Jesus
Christ, To all God's beloved in
Rome, who are called to be saints:
Grace to you and peace from God
our Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ.

GOSPEL Matthew 1:18-end

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

The birth of Jesus the Messiah
took place in this way. When his
mother Mary had been engaged
to Joseph, but before they lived
together, she was found to be
with child from the Holy Spirit. Her
husband Joseph, being a righteous
man and unwilling to expose her
to public disgrace, planned to
dismiss her quietly. But just when
he had resolved to do this, an
angel of the Lord appeared to
him in a dream and said, "Joseph,
son of David, do not be afraid to
take Mary as your wife, for the
child conceived in her is from the
Holy Spirit. She will bear a son,
and you are to name him Jesus,
for he will save his people from
their sins." All this took place to
fulfil what had been spoken by the
Lord through the prophet: "Look,
the virgin shall conceive and bear
a son, and they shall name him
Emmanuel," which means, "God
is with us." When Joseph awoke
from sleep, he did as the angel of
the Lord commanded him; he took
her as his wife, but had no marital
relations with her until she had
borne a son; and he named him
Jesus.

POST COMMUNION

Heavenly Father,
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary
to be the mother of the promised
saviour:
fill us your servants with your
grace,
that in all things we may embrace
your holy will
and with her rejoice in your
salvation;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.