

COLLECT

Most merciful God,
 who by the death and resurrection
 of your Son Jesus Christ
 delivered and saved the world:
 grant that by faith in him who
 suffered on the cross
 we may triumph in the power of
 his victory;
 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 Isaiah 43:16-21

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD, who makes
 a way in the sea, a path in the
 mighty waters, who brings out
 chariot and horse, army and
 warrior; they lie down, they
 cannot rise, they are extinguished,
 quenched like a wick: Do not
 remember the former things, or
 consider the things of old. I am
 about to do a new thing; now it
 springs forth, do you not perceive
 it? I will make a way in the
 wilderness and rivers in the desert.
 The wild animals will honour me,
 the jackals and the ostriches; for I
 give water in the wilderness, rivers
 in the desert, to give drink to my
 chosen people, the people whom
 I formed for myself so that they
 might declare my praise.

PSALM Psalm 126

R *The Lord has done great things
 for us
 [and we are glad indeed].*

When the Lord restored the
 fortunes of Zion,
 then were we like those who dream.
 Then was our mouth filled with
 laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy. **R**
 Then they said among the nations,
 "The Lord has done great things
 for them."

The Lord has done great things
 for us,
 and we are glad indeed. **R**

Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
 like the watercourses of the
 Negev.

Those who sowed with tears
 will reap with songs of joy.
 Those who go out weeping,
 carrying the seed,
 will come again with joy,
 shouldering their sheaves. **R**

SECOND READING

Philippians 3:4b-14

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

If anyone else has reason to be
 confident in the flesh, I have
 more: circumcised on the eighth
 day, a member of the people of
 Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin,
 a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as
 to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal,
 a persecutor of the church; as
 to righteousness under the law,
 blameless. Yet whatever gains I
 had, these I have come to regard
 as loss because of Christ. More
 than that, I regard everything as
 loss because of the surpassing
 value of knowing Christ Jesus my
 Lord. For his sake I have suffered
 the loss of all things, and I regard
 them as rubbish, in order that I
 may gain Christ and be found in
 him, not having a righteousness
 of my own that comes from the
 law, but one that comes through
 faith in Christ, the righteousness
 from God based on faith. I want to
 know Christ and the power of his
 resurrection and the sharing of his
 sufferings by becoming like him in
 his death, if somehow I may attain
 the resurrection from the dead.
 Not that I have already obtained
 this or have already reached the
 goal; but I press on to make it my
 own, because Christ Jesus has
 made me his own. Beloved, I do
 not consider that I have made it

my own; but this one thing I do:
 forgetting what lies behind and
 straining forward to what lies
 ahead, I press on towards the goal
 for the prize of the heavenly call
 of God in Christ Jesus.

GOSPEL John 12:1-8

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

Six days before the Passover
 Jesus came to Bethany, the home
 of Lazarus, whom he had raised
 from the dead. There they gave
 a dinner for him. Martha served,
 and Lazarus was one of those at
 the table with him. Mary took a
 pound of costly perfume made of
 pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet,
 and wiped them with her hair. The
 house was filled with the fragrance
 of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot,
 one of his disciples (the one who
 was about to betray him), said,
 "Why was this perfume not sold
 for three hundred denarii and the
 money given to the poor?" (He
 said this not because he cared
 about the poor, but because he
 was a thief; he kept the common
 purse and used to steal what was
 put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her
 alone. She bought it so that she
 might keep it for the day of my
 burial. You always have the poor
 with you, but you do not always
 have me."

POST COMMUNION

Lord Jesus Christ,
 you have taught us
 that what we do for the least of
 our brothers and sisters
 we do also for you:
 give us the will to be the servant
 of others
 as you were the servant of all,
 and gave up your life and died for
 us,
 but are alive and reign, now and
 for ever.