COLLECT

Almighty God, you show to those who are in error the light of your truth, that they may return to the way of righteousness:
grant to all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may reject those things that are contrary to their profession, and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

FIRST READING
Genesis 15.1–12, 17–18

A reading from Genesis.

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.'
But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?'
And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.'
But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.'
He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.'
Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.'
And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.
Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.'
But he said,'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?'
He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.'
He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.
As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.
On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

PSALM Psalm 27

℟ The Lord is my light and my salvation.

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear? the Lord is the strength of my life; of whom then shall I be afraid?
2 When evildoers came upon me to eat up my flesh, it was they, my foes and my adversaries, who stumbled and fell. ℟
3 Though an army should encamp against me, yet my heart shall not be afraid;
4 And though war should rise up against me, yet will I put my trust in him. ℟
5 One thing have I asked of the Lord; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
6 To behold the fair beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple. ℟
7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling and set me high upon a rock. ℟
8 Even now he lifts up my head above my enemies round about me;
9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation with sounds of great gladness; I will sing and make music to the Lord. ℟
10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.
11 You speak in my heart and say, 'Seek my face.' Your face, Lord, will I seek.
12 Hide not your face from me, nor turn away your servant in displeasure. ℟
13 You have been my helper; cast me not away; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation.
14 Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will sustain me. ℟
15 Show me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my enemies.
16 Deliver me not into the hand of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen up against me, and also those who speak malice. ℟
17 What if I had not believed that I should see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!
18 O tarry and await the Lord's pleasure; be strong and he shall comfort your heart; wait patiently for the Lord. ℟

SECOND READING
Philippians 3.17 – 4.1

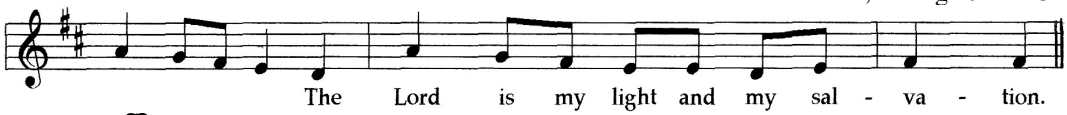
A reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.
For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears.
Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things.
But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.
He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of His glory, by the power that also enables Him to make all things subject to Himself.
Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my belovèd.

GOSPEL
Luke 13.31–35

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

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.'
He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.
Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!
See, your house is left to you.
And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessèd is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

POST COMMUNION

Almighty God, you see that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves:
keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and inwardly in our souls;
that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord.