Collect

O God,  
the strength of all those who put their trust in you,  
mercifully accept our prayers  
and, because through the weakness of our mortal nature   
we can do no good thing without you,  
grant us the help of your grace,  
that in the keeping of your commandments  
we may please you both in will and deed;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord …

Isaiah 65.1-9

**65** I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask,  
   to be found by those who did not seek me.  
I said, ‘Here I am, here I am’,  
   to a nation that did not call on my name.   
2 I held out my hands all day long  
   to a rebellious people,  
who walk in a way that is not good,  
   following their own devices;   
3 a people who provoke me  
   to my face continually,  
sacrificing in gardens  
   and offering incense on bricks;   
4 who sit inside tombs,  
   and spend the night in secret places;  
who eat swine’s flesh,  
   with broth of abominable things in their vessels;   
5 who say, ‘Keep to yourself,  
   do not come near me, for I am too holy for you.’  
These are a smoke in my nostrils,  
   a fire that burns all day long.   
6 See, it is written before me:  
   I will not keep silent, but I will repay;  
I will indeed repay into their laps   
7   their iniquities and their ancestors’ iniquities together,   
says the Lord;  
because they offered incense on the mountains  
   and reviled me on the hills,  
I will measure into their laps  
   full payment for their actions.   
8 Thus says the Lord:  
As the wine is found in the cluster,  
   and they say, ‘Do not destroy it,  
   for there is a blessing in it’,  
so I will do for my servants’ sake,  
   and not destroy them all.   
9 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob,  
   and from Judah inheritors of my mountains;  
my chosen shall inherit it,  
   and my servants shall settle there.

This is the word of the Lord. All: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 22.19–28

19  Be not far from me, O Lord; •  
   you are my strength; hasten to help me.  
20  Deliver my soul from the sword, •  
   my poor life from the power of the dog.  
21  Save me from the lion’s mouth,  
      from the horns of wild oxen. •  
   You have answered me!  
22  I will tell of your name to my people; •  
   in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.  
23  Praise the Lord, you that fear him; •  
   O seed of Jacob, glorify him;  
      stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.  
24  For he has not despised nor abhorred  
 the suffering of the poor;  
      neither has he hidden his face from them; •  
   but when they cried to him he heard them.  
25  From you comes my praise in the great congregation; •  
   I will perform my vows  
      in the presence of those that fear you.  
26  The poor shall eat and be satisfied; •  
   those who seek the Lord shall praise him;  
      their hearts shall live for ever.  
27  All the ends of the earth  
      shall remember and turn to the Lord, •  
   and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.  
28  For the kingdom is the Lord’s •  
   and he rules over the nations.

Gospel Reading Luke 8.26–39

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

26 They arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. 27 As Jesus stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. 28 When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, ‘What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me’— 29 for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) 30 Jesus then asked him, ‘What is your name?’ He said, ‘Legion’; for many demons had entered him. 31 They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

32  Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. 33 Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

34  When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. 35 Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. 36 Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. 37 Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. 38 The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 39 ‘Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.’ So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **All:** Praise to you, O Christ.