Collect

Almighty Lord and everlasting God,  
we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern   
both our hearts and bodies  
in the ways of your laws   
and the works of your commandments;  
that through your most mighty protection,   
both here and ever,  
we may be preserved in body and soul;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ …

Isaiah 1.1, 10-20

**1** The vision of Isaiah son of Amoz, which he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem in the days of Uzziah, Jotham, Ahaz, and Hezekiah, kings of Judah.

10 Hear the word of the Lord, you rulers of Sodom!  
Listen to the teaching of our God, you people of Gomorrah!   
11 What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices?  
   says the Lord;  
I have had enough of burnt-offerings of rams  
   and the fat of fed beasts;  
I do not delight in the blood of bulls, or of lambs, or of goats.   
12 When you come to appear before me,  
   who asked this from your hand?  
   Trample my courts no more;   
13 bringing offerings is futile;  
   incense is an abomination to me.  
New moon and sabbath and calling of convocation—  
   I cannot endure solemn assemblies with iniquity.   
14 Your new moons and your appointed festivals  
   my soul hates;  
they have become a burden to me,  
   I am weary of bearing them.   
15 When you stretch out your hands,  
   I will hide my eyes from you;  
even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;  
   your hands are full of blood.   
16 Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;  
   remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes;  
cease to do evil, 17   learn to do good;  
seek justice, rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan, plead for the widow.

18 Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord:  
though your sins are like scarlet,  
   they shall be like snow;  
though they are red like crimson,   
   they shall become like wool.   
19 If you are willing and obedient,   
   you shall eat the good of the land;   
20 but if you refuse and rebel,  
   you shall be devoured by the sword;  
   for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

Psalm 50.1–8, 23–end

1  The Lord, the most mighty God, has spoken •  
   and called the world from the rising of the sun to its setting.  
2  Out of Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth; •  
   our God comes and will not keep silence.  
3  Consuming fire goes out before him •  
   and a mighty tempest stirs about him.  
4  He calls the heaven above, •  
   and the earth, that he may judge his people:  
5  ‘Gather to me my faithful, •  
   who have sealed my covenant with sacrifice.’  
6  Let the heavens declare his righteousness, •  
   for God himself is judge.  
7  Hear, O my people, and I will speak: •  
   ‘I will testify against you, O Israel;  
      for I am God, your God.  
8  ‘I will not reprove you for your sacrifices, •  
   for your burnt offerings are always before me.  
23  ‘You that forget God, consider this well, •  
   lest I tear you apart and there is none to deliver you.  
24  ‘Whoever offers me the sacrifice of thanksgiving  
 honours me •  
   and to those who keep my way  
      will I show the salvation of God.’

Gospel Reading Luke 12.32–40

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

Jesus said to his disciples,  
32 ‘Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom. 33 Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. 34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

35 ‘Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit; 36 be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks. 37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them. 38 If he comes during the middle of the night, or near dawn, and finds them so, blessed are those slaves.

39 ‘But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. 40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.’

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

Post Communion

Strengthen for service, Lord,  
the hands that have taken holy things;  
may the ears which have heard your word  
be deaf to clamour and dispute;  
may the tongues which have sung your praise be free from deceit;  
may the eyes which have seen the tokens of your love  
shine with the light of hope;  
and may the bodies which have been fed with your body  
be refreshed with the fullness of your life;  
glory to you for ever.