Collect

Almighty and everlasting God,
increase in us your gift of faith
that, forsaking what lies behind
and reaching out to that which is before,
we may run the way of your commandments
and win the crown of everlasting joy;

Jeremiah 31.27-34

27 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. 28And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. 29In those days they shall no longer say:
‘The parents have eaten sour grapes,
   and the children’s teeth are set on edge.’
30But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

31 The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. 32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, ‘Know the Lord’, for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

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

Psalm 119.97–104

97  Lord, how I love your law! •
   All the day long it is my study.
98  Your commandments have made me wiser
 than my enemies, •
   for they are ever with me.

99  I have more understanding
 than all my teachers, •
   for your testimonies are my meditation.
100  I am wiser than the aged, •
   because I keep your commandments.
101  I restrain my feet from every evil way, •
   that I may keep your word.
102  I have not turned aside from
 your judgements, •
   for you have been my teacher.
103  How sweet are your words on my tongue! •
   They are sweeter than honey to my mouth.
104  Through your commandments
 I get understanding; •
   therefore I hate all lying ways.

**Gospel Reading Luke 18.1-8**

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

**18** Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. 2He said, ‘In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. 3In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, “Grant me justice against my opponent.” 4For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, “Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, 5yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.” ’ 6And the Lord said, ‘Listen to what the unjust judge says. 7And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? 8I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?’

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

Post Communion

We praise and thank you, O Christ,
for this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where you reign
with all your saints for ever.