COLLECT
Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace;
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 55:1-9
A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.
The LORD says this: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labour for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way,
My soul clings to you;
your right hand shall hold me fast. R

SECOND READING
1 Corinthians 10:1-13
A reading from the first letter of Paul to
the Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors
were all under the cloud, and all passed
through the sea, and all were baptised
into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,
and all ate the same spiritual food,
and all drank the same spiritual drink.
For they drank from the spiritual rock
that followed them, and the rock was
Christ. Nevertheless, God was not
pleased with most of them, and they
were struck down in the wilderness.
Now these things occurred as examples
for us, so that we might not desire evil
as they did. Do not become idolaters
as some of them did; as it is written,
"The people sat down to eat and drink,
and they rose up to play." We must not
indulge in sexual immorality as some of
them did, and twenty-three thousand
fell in a single day. We must not put
Christ to the test, as some of them did,
and were destroyed by serpents. And
do not complain as some of them did,
and were destroyed by the destroyer.
These things happened to them to
serve as an example, and they were
written down to instruct us, on whom
the ends of the ages have come. So if
you think you are standing, watch out
that you do not fall. No testing has
overtaken you that is not common to
everyone. God is faithful, and he will
not let you be tested beyond your
strength, but with the testing he will
also provide the way out so that you
may be able to endure it.

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

There were some present who told
Jesus about the Galileans whose blood
Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.
He asked them “Do you think that
because these Galileans suffered in
this way they were worse sinners than
all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but
unless you repent, you will all perish as
they did. Or those eighteen who were
killed when the tower of Siloam fell
on them – do you think that they were
worse offenders than all the others
living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but
unless you repent, you will all perish
just as they did.” Then he told this
parable: “A man had a fig tree planted
in his vineyard; and he came looking for
fruit on it and found none. So he said
to the gardener, ‘See here! For three
years I have come looking for fruit on
this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut
it down! Why should it be wasting the
soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one
more year, until I dig around it and put
manure on it. If it bears fruit next year,
well and good; but if not, you can cut it
down.’”

POST COMMUNION
Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand
the temptations of the world, the
flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to
follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.