

COLLECT

Almighty God,
you have created the heavens and the earth
and made us in your own image:
teach us to discern your hand in all your works
and your likeness in all your children;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns supreme over all things,
now and for ever.

READINGS (NIV)

Prov. 8:1 & 22-31

Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?
The LORD brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old;
I was appointed from eternity, from the beginning, before the world began.
When there were no oceans, I was given birth, when there were no springs abounding with
water;
before the mountains were settled in place, before the hills, I was given birth,
before he made the earth or its fields or any of the dust of the world.
I was there when he set the heavens in place, when he marked out the horizon on the face of
the deep,
when he established the clouds above and fixed securely the fountains of the deep,
when he gave the sea its boundary so that the waters would not overstep his command, and
when he marked out the foundations of the earth.
Then I was the craftsman at his side. I was filled with delight day after day, rejoicing always
in his presence,
rejoicing in his whole world and delighting in mankind.

Col. 1:15-20

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible,
whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him.
He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from
among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
For God was pleased to have all his fulness dwell in him,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in
heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.

GOSPEL (NIV)

Mk. 1:40-45

A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, If you are willing, you can make me clean.

Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. I am willing, he said. Be clean!

Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.

Jesus sent him away at once with a strong warning:

See that you don't tell this to anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.

Instead he went out and began to talk freely, spreading the news. As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.