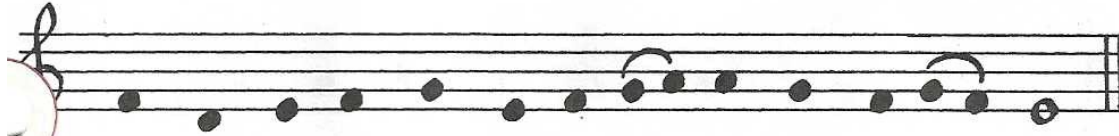


COLLECT O God, who knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that by reason of the frailty of our nature we cannot always stand upright: Grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers, and carry us through all temptations; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LESSON**DEUTERONOMY 18:15-22**

[**M** OSES SAID UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL:] “THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL RAISE up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brethren—him you shall heed—¹⁶ just as you desired of the LORD your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly, when you said, ‘Let me not hear again the voice of the LORD my God, or see this great fire any more, lest I die.’¹⁷ And the LORD said to me, ‘They have rightly said all that they have spoken.¹⁸ I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their brethren; and I will put my words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him.¹⁹ And whoever will not give heed to my words which he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him.²⁰ But the prophet who presumes to speak a word in my name which I have not commanded him to speak, or who speaks in the name of other gods, that same prophet shall die.’²¹ And if you say in your heart, ‘How may we know the word which the LORD has not spoken?’—²² when a prophet speaks in the name of the LORD, if the word does not come to pass or come true, that is a word which the LORD has not spoken; the prophet has spoken it presumptuously, you need not be afraid of him.”

REFRAIN



The fear of the Lord is the be - gin - ning of wis - dom.

- 1 I will give thanks unto the LORD with my whole heart, *
secretly among the faithful, and in the congregation.
- 2 The works of the LORD are great, *
sought out of all them that have pleasure therein.
- 3 His work is worthy to be praised and had in honour, *
and his righteousness endureth for ever.
- 4 The merciful and gracious LORD hath so done his marvellous works, *
that they ought to be had in remembrance. (Refrain)
- 5 He hath given meat unto them that fear him; *
he shall ever be mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He hath showed his people the power of his works, *
that he may give them the heritage of the heathen. (Refrain)
- 7 The works of his hands are verity and judgment; *
all his commandments are true.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
and are done in truth and equity. (Refrain)
- 9 He sent redemption unto his people; *
he hath commanded his covenant for ever;
holy and reverend is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
a good understanding have all they that do thereafter;
his praise endureth for ever. (Refrain)

NOW CONCERNING FOOD OFFERED TO IDOLS: WE KNOW THAT "ALL OF US POSSESS knowledge." "Knowledge" puffs up, but love builds up. ² If any one imagines that he knows something, he does not yet know as he ought to know. ³ But if one loves God, one is known by him. ⁴ Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "an idol has no real existence," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵ For although there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as indeed there are many "gods" and many "lords"—⁶ yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist. ⁷ However, not all possess this knowledge. But some, through being hitherto accustomed to idols, eat food as really offered to an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸ Food will not commend us to God. We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹ Only take care lest this liberty of yours somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰ For if any one sees you, a man of knowledge, at table in an idol's temple, might he not be encouraged, if his conscience is weak, to eat food offered to idols? ¹¹ And so by your knowledge this weak man is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died. ¹² Thus, sinning against your brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³ Therefore, if food is a cause of my brother's falling, I will never eat meat, lest I cause my brother to fall.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

ST. MARK 1:21-28

[JESUS AND HIS DISCIPLES] WENT INTO CAPERNAUM; AND IMMEDIATELY ON THE sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. ²² And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. ²³ And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; ²⁴ and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵ But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶ And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷ And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching! With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸ And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.