

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

Ho, 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.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline 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.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, 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.

PSALM: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

Cantor sings refrain. Assembly repeats refrain. Cantor sings verses. Assembly sings refrain at R.

You o - pen wide your hand and sat - is -
fy the de - sire of ev - 'ry liv - ing thing.

⁸The LORD is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.

⁹LORD, you are ¹ good to all,
and your compassion is over ¹ all your works. **R**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all ¹ those who fall
and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.

¹⁵The eyes of all wait upon ^l you, O LORD,
and you give them their food ^l in due season.
¹⁶You open ^l wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every ^l living thing.
¹⁷You are righteous in ^l all your ways
and loving in ^l all your works. **R**
¹⁸You are near to all who ^l call upon you,
to all who call up- ^l on you faithfully.
¹⁹You fulfill the desire of ^l those who fear you;
you hear their ^l cry and save them.
²⁰You watch over all ^l those who love you,
but all the wicked you ^l shall destroy.
²¹My mouth shall speak the praise ^l of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forev- ^l er and ever. **R**

SECOND READING: Romans 9:1–5

A reading from Romans.

I am speaking the truth in Christ — I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit — ²I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. ³For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; ⁵to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13–21

¹³Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS:



These readings are related to the Lectionary readings for this Sunday. We invite you to take time each day to read the assigned Bible passage.

Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds five thousand
Monday	Exodus 16:2-4,9-15	God feeds the Israelites
Tuesday	2 Kings 4:42-44	Elisha feeds one hundred men
Wednesday	2 Kings 7:3-16	Four lepers eat and drink
Thursday	Matthew 15:32-39	Jesus feeds four thousand
Friday	John 21:15-17	Jesus tells Peter to feed his sheep
Saturday	Psalms 78:1-8,17-29	God sent food from heaven
Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on water

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish. He looked up toward heaven and blessed the food. Then he broke the bread and handed it to his disciples, and they gave it to the people.
Matthew 14:19b (CEV)

SAY, PRAY AND BLESS:

A Prayer for the Week:

Lord God, we depend on you to live. Please give us what we need most of all - trust in you. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer:

Jesus, bless the food upon our dishes, as you did the loaves and fishes. By your grace we eat and live, hear our thanks for all you give. Amen.

A Blessing to Give:

May the Lord Jesus be kind to you. May he feed you in body and in spirit, and meet all of your needs. Amen.

CARING CONVERSATION:

Discuss in your household or small group:

- Matthew 14:14 tells us that Jesus had "compassion" on the crowds. What is compassion?
- Share about a time when someone showed compassion to you, or when you showed compassion to someone else.
- Have you ever experienced God providing for your needs in a special way? Share your story.

DEVOTIONS:

In the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus took what the disciples brought to him and used it to feed the whole crowd. Using paper and scissors, cut out a fish or breadloaf-shaped figure for each household member, and write their name upon it. As part of your home devotional times this week, share talents or gifts that you see in one another. Write these down on your "loaves" or "fish." Talk about ways that we can bless others through these God-given gifts and talents, and pray for God's guidance in using them.

SERVICE:

God calls those who have been materially blessed to share with those who have less. Set aside some time this week to bake some bread or cookies together. Invite friends or neighbors to enjoy with you the fruits of your labor!

RITUALS AND TRADITIONS:

Our household meals can be occasions where we experience Jesus "multiplying our blessings." Here is some advice for making the most of your mealtimes:

- Get rid of all distractions. Pledge to switch off the TV or the radio, allow your phone calls to go to your answering machine or message bank, and ban electronic games at the table. Reading of books or newspapers should also be discouraged.
- Sit together around the table rather than sitting side-by-side at the kitchen counter or sitting in different parts of the house. This gives your family more opportunities for conversation.
- Avoid turning your household mealtimes into "checking up" or "instructional" times. Share "highs" and "lows" and anecdotes from the day. Express thanks and appreciation to one another.