

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY

ORDINARY Season of the Year A

First Reading † Isaiah 55:1-3

Hasten and eat.

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Thus says the Lord:

'O you who are thirsty, come to the water!
You who have no money, come buy and eat!
Come buy wine and milk without money, free!
Why spend money on what cannot nourish
and your earnings on what fails to satisfy?
Listen carefully to me:
have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.
Pay attention, come to me; listen, and you will live.
I shall make an everlasting covenant with you –
the mercies of my steadfast love for David.'

The word of the Lord.

Responsorial † Psalm 144:8-9.15-18

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in mercy.
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures.

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food in due season.
You open your hand and satisfy
the desire of every living thing.

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

The Lord is righteous in all his ways,
and holy in all his deeds.
The Lord is close to all who call him,
who call on him in sincerity.

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

Second Reading † Romans 8:35.37-39

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ.

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans

Can anything separate us from the love of Christ – can hardship or distress, or persecution, or lack of food or clothing, or danger or the sword?

No, through him who loved us we are more than conquerors in all these things.

For I am convinced that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nothing already in existence and nothing still to come, nor any power, nor height nor depths, nor any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation † Matthew 4:4

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone,

but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel † Matthew 14:13-21

They all ate and were satisfied.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

When Jesus received this news he withdrew by boat to a lonely place on his own. But the crowds heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said,

‘This is a lonely place, and time has slipped by;
so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.’

Jesus replied,

‘There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.’

But they answered,

‘All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.’

So he said,

‘Bring them here to me.’

He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then taking the five loaves and the two fish, and raising his eyes to heaven he said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples, who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps left over, twelve baskets full. Now about five thousand men had eaten, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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