

Readings + 9th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 18 A + August 6, 2023

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-5

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk without money
and without price.

² Why do you spend your money
for that which is not bread,
and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³ 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.

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

⁵ Now 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 the LORD has glorified you.

Psalmody Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21

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

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

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

**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and
you give them their food in due season.**

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire
of every living thing.

**You are righteous in all your ways and loving
in all your works.**

You are near to all who call upon you, to all who
call upon you faithfully.

**You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;
you hear their cry and save them.**

You watch over all those who love you, but all
the wicked you shall destroy.

**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever
and ever.**

Second Reading Romans 9:1-5

Paul writes: ¹ I am speaking the truth in
Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it
by the Holy Spirit— ² I have great sorrow and
unceasing anguish in my heart. ³ For I could wish
that I myself were accursed and cut from Christ
for the sake of my own siblings, my own flesh
and blood. ⁴ They are Israelites, and to them
belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the
giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;
⁵ to them belong the patriarchs, and from them,
according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is
over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

*This miraculous feeding of thousands is one of
the few stories, apart from the Passion story
itself, that is included in all four Gospels. Each
Evangelist's version is slightly different, but the
main elements are all the same, including
agreement that there were five loaves and two
fish to begin with, and twelve baskets of leftovers
at the end. John is the only Evangelist who omits
Jesus' injunction (v. 16 here), "you give them
something to eat."*

¹³ Now when Jesus heard about the beheading
of John the Baptist, 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. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great
crowd; and he had compassion for them and
cured their sick.

¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to
Jesus 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.”¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.”¹⁷ They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.”¹⁸ And he said, “Bring them here to me.”

¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish,

Jesus looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.