

Eighteenth Sunday of the Year

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Entrance Antiphon: O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help! You are my rescuer, my help, O Lord, do not delay.

The people followed Jesus to a lonely place, forgetting everything else in order to listen to his words and to seek healing for their sicknesses. We too have left everything, if only for a while, and have come here to listen to the Lord's words and to be healed by him.

Lord, you are kind and merciful; slow to anger and abounding in love.

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

You are close to all who call on you, who call on you from their hearts.

Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**

You support all who fall, and raise up all who are bowed

Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory. Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Let us pray:

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING:

A reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 55: 1-3

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come! Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy? Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy. Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live. With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 144:8-9. 15-18

Response: **You open wide your hand, O Lord,
you grant our desires.**

The Lord is kind and full of compassion,
slow to anger, abounding in love.

How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R/.**

The eye of all creatures look to you
and you give them their food in due time.

You open wide your hand,
grant the desires of all who live. **R/.**

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.

He is close to all who call him,
call on him from their hearts. **R/.**

SECOND READING

A reading from St Paul's Letter to the Romans.

Romans 8: 35. 37-39

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us. For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Man does not live on bread alone,
but on every word**

that comes from the mouth of God. Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 14: 13-21

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people 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 the 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." "Bring them here to me," he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and 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 remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us make our profession of faith:

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offertory:

Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offering:

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Preface:

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right and just.

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,
always and everywhere to give you thanks,
Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.
For you laid the foundations of the world
and have arranged the changing of times and seasons;
you formed man in your own image
and set humanity over the whole world in all its wonder,
to rule in your name over all you have made
and for ever praise you in your mighty works,
through Christ our Lord.
And so, with all the Angels, we praise you,
as in joyful celebration we acclaim:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

The mystery of faith. **We proclaim your Death, O Lord,
and profess your Resurrection
until you come again.**

Communion Antiphon:

**You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven,
endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste.**

REFLECTION:

Feeding the Hungry

The multiplication of the loaves happens in our fields every year between sowing and harvest time. Like the miracle of Jesus, this miracle too is brought about by the power of God. And just as Jesus needed the hands of the apostles to distribute the bread to the people, so God now needs human hands to make this abundance available to the hungry. In some countries today the problem is over-eating. In other countries the problem is getting anything to eat at all. Today we don't need anyone to multiply the loaves for us. The food is there. What is not always there is the will to share it.

Prayer after Communion:

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Final Blessing

The Lord be with you.
May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Go forth, the Mass is ended.

And with your spirit.

Amen.

Thanks be to God.

I never really knew what it was to be thankful 'till I felt your forgiveness Lord. Thank you Lord.

Prayer: Lord, you challenge us to seek what eyes can't see and ears can't hear. Help us keep our eyes on Jesus, to ponder his words, and to be serious about living his challenge of love. Let our words and actions be nourishment and delight for others, giving them the inspiration to love you and the courage to follow you. So may we praise you now and forever.