

18th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A)

1st. READING (Is 55, 1-3)

Thus says the Lord: Come here, all you who are thirsty, come to the water! All who have no money, come! Yes, without money and at no cost, buy and drink wine and milk. Why spend money on what is not food and labour for what does not satisfy? Listen to me, and you will eat well; you will enjoy the richest of fare. Incline your ear and come to me; listen, that your soul may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, I will fulfil in you my promises to David.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 145)

Compassionate and gracious is the Lord,
slow to anger and abounding in love.
The Lord is good to everyone;
his mercy embraces all his creation.

All creatures look to you
to be fed in due season;
with open hand you satisfy
the living according to their needs.

Righteous is the Lord in all his ways,
his mercy shows in all his deeds.
He is near those who call on him,
who call trustfully upon his name.

2nd. READING (Rom 8, 35.37-39)

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Will it be trials, or anguish, persecution or hunger, lack of clothing, or dangers or sword? No, in all of this we are more than conquerors, thanks to him who has loved us. I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor spiritual powers, neither the present nor the future, nor cosmic powers, were they from heaven or from the deep world below, nor any creature whatsoever will separate us from the love of God, which we have in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

GOSPEL (Mt 14,13-21)

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death set out secretly by boat for a secluded place. But the people heard of it, and they followed him on foot from their towns. When Jesus went ashore, he saw the crowd gathered there and he had compassion on them. And he healed their sick. Late in the afternoon, his disciples came to him and said, "We are in a lonely place and it is now late. You should send these people away, so they can go to the villages and buy something for themselves to eat." But Jesus replied, "They do not need to go away; you give them something to eat." They answered, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fishes." Jesus said to them, "Bring them here to me." Then he made everyone sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves and the two fishes, raised his eyes to heaven, pronounced the blessing, broke the loaves and handed them to the disciples to distribute to the people. And they all ate, and everyone had enough; then the disciples gathered up the leftovers, filling twelve baskets. About five thousand men had eaten there besides women and children.