

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

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

GLORIA

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.

COLLECT

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,
God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
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.

PSALM

Ps 144 (145):8-9, 15-18

Response:

You open wide your hand, O Lord; you grant
our desires.

1. 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.)

2. The eyes 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.)
3. 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

Romans 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Romans.

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessings on the King who comes,
in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven
and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Matthew.

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.

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,

(all bow during the next three lines)

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.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

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

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.

Do not grieve over temptations you suffer.
When the Lord intends to bestow a particular
virtue on us, He often permits us first to be
tempted by the opposite vice. Therefore, look
upon every temptation as an invitation to grow
in a particular virtue and promise God that you
will be successful, if only you stand fast.

St Philip Neri

Sunday Message

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

THE WORD

Year A • 2 August 2026 • Colour: Green • Psalter Week 2



JESUS FEEDS THE FIVE THOUSAND

MATTHEW 14:13-21

In this passage, we witness Jesus' compassion in action. Upon hearing of John the Baptist's death, he withdraws to a quiet place, yet the crowds follow him. Seeing their need, "he had compassion on them and healed their sick." Jesus' concern is both spiritual and physical — he attends to their suffering, showing that God's care embraces every aspect of human life.

The miracle of the feeding highlights the abundance of God's providence. With only five loaves and two fish, Jesus blesses the small offering, distributes it to the crowd, and everyone eats their fill. The leftover fragments emphasize that God's generosity is overflowing and cannot be exhausted. The disciples' participation in distributing the food demonstrates the partnership between divine action and human response.

Matthew presents this event as a sign of the Kingdom: God provides for his people, satisfies their needs, and invites cooperation in his work. It also prefigures the Eucharist, where Christ gives himself as spiritual nourishment. The passage calls readers to trust in God's providence, offer what they have, and participate actively in sharing his love and care with others. ■

REFLECT

Jesus heals the sick and cares for them, showing that discipleship begins with attentiveness to the suffering around us. Faith is not only belief but action: seeing the needs of others and responding with love.

The miracle of the feeding of the five thousand reminds us that God can transform even our smallest efforts into abundance. The disciples' simple offering of five loaves and two fish, given to Jesus, becomes enough to satisfy thousands. This teaches that nothing we offer — no act of kindness, prayer, or generosity — is too small for God to use.

We are invited to participate in God's work today. Small gestures of care, encouragement, or sharing what we have can have greater impact than we imagine. Jesus shows that when we bring our limited resources and trust them to God, they are multiplied, and everyone benefits. Discipleship calls us to compassionate action, to notice needs, and to offer what we can, trusting God to provide abundantly and transform ordinary efforts into blessings. ■

LEARN

God calls us to participate in his work of compassion, and that even small offerings, when entrusted to Christ, can be multiplied to meet the needs of others.

DO

Bring what little you have — time, talent, or resources — and trust God to use it to bless others.

SAY

Little things done with great love are mighty in God's sight.
St. Thérèse of Lisieux

