

Scriptures

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 he has glorified you.

L: May the church hear what the Spirit is saying.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 145:8-9,14-21

L: This morning's psalm is from Psalm 145. It will be read antiphonally with the pulpit side leading, speaking the yellow text and the piano side following, speaking the bolded text.

- ⁸ The Lord is gracious and full ¹ of compassion,
 slow to anger and abounding in ¹ steadfast love.
- ⁹ Lord, you are ¹ good to all,
 and your compassion is over ¹ all your works.
- ¹⁴ The Lord upholds all ¹ those who fall
 and lifts up those who ¹ are bowed down.

- ¹⁵ The eyes of all wait upon | you, O Lord,
and you give them their food | in due season.
- ¹⁶ You open | wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every | living thing.
- ¹⁷ You are righteous in | all your ways
and loving in | all your works. R
- ¹⁸ You are near to all who | call upon you,
to all who call up- | on you faithfully.
- ¹⁹ You fulfill the desire of | those who fear you;
you hear their | cry and save them.
- ²⁰ You watch over all | those who love you,
but all the wicked you | shall destroy.
- ²¹ My mouth shall speak the praise | of the Lord;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forev- | er and ever.

SECOND READING: ROMANS 9:1-5

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 off from Christ for the sake of my own brothers and sisters, 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.

L: May the church hear what the Spirit is saying.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING: MATTHEW 14:13-21

C: **Glory to you, O God.**

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 him 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, he 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.

P: The Gospel of Christ.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Prayers of the People

L: With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation saying Merciful God and responding hear our prayer.

A brief silence.

For your church in every place, that it satisfies those who hunger for your word. Bless the ministry of readers, translators, Bible study leaders, and writers, that God's word is broken open and shared with all. Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For your wondrous creation and all the bounty it provides, that your creatures are fed and nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers, those who fish, and all whose labor brings your abundance to our tables. Save and preserve all who at risk by natural disasters in our world. Help us to always seek restoration and balance in creation. Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For your children in every nation, that they learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward your reign of love, hope, and peace. Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they are comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit. Bless those who travel, and who are in a time of transition. We pray especially for Jose, Joan, Terri, Martha, Tim, Roxie, Alfred, Terry, Eleanor, Abdulaziz, Meryem, Aysa, Hasan, Orville, Alma, Sylvia, George, Keith, Harold, Byron and all those we carry in our hearts and minds this day, silently or named aloud at this time... (brief pause). Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For this congregation, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Bless all your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this community. Merciful God, hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.