

Sunday 2 August 2026

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading - *Isaiah 55.1-3*

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

Come, all who are thirsty;

 come to the water and drink.

Come, all who are in poverty;

 come for grain, and milk, and wine,

 without money,

 and without cost.

For you work,

 and you spend,

but you find

 neither food

 nor fulfilment.

So listen now

 to the word of the Lord,

and you will eat,

 and be filled,

and your soul

 will delight

 in abundance.

Come to me,

 and hear my word.

Hear my word,

 that you may live,

says the Lord.

And the Lord

 will make with you

 an everlasting covenant.

This is the word of the Lord.

Second Reading - *Romans 8.28-30*

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

God's purpose,

 from the beginning,

was that many

 would become like Christ,

 the Son of God,

so that Christ

 would be the firstborn

 of many

 brothers and sisters.

And now, by God's grace,

 we have indeed

 been called,

 and reconciled with God.

We have even

 entered into

 the glory of God.

And so we see

 that

 in accordance

 with God's

 plan

 and purpose,

all things

 work together

 for good

 for those who love God.

This is the word of the Lord.

Gospel - *Matthew 14.13-21*

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.

On hearing

 that John the Baptist
 had been killed
 by King Herod,

Jesus

 withdrew
 by boat
 to a wilderness place,
 alone.

But news of it

 spread,

and the crowds

 followed him
 on foot
 from the towns,

so that when Jesus went ashore,

 a great crowd
 had already gathered.

Jesus had compassion on them,
 and healed the sick amongst them.

As evening came,

 the disciples
 said to Jesus

that he should send the crowds away

 from this desolate place,

into the villages,

 to buy food.

But Jesus said to the disciples,

 'The people can stay,
 if you give them something to eat.'

The disciples replied,

 'We have nothing here
 but five loaves,
 and two fish.'

Jesus said, 'Bring them to me.'

Then Jesus ordered the crowds
 to sit down on the grass.

He took

 the five loaves, and the two fish.

And looking up to heaven,

 he blessed them,
 and broke them into pieces.

And he gave the pieces
 to the disciples.

And the disciples

 gave the pieces
 to the crowds.

And everyone ate,
 and was filled.

And the disciples collected up

 what was left over
 of the broken pieces,
 filling twelve baskets.

Those who ate

 were about five thousand men,
in addition

 to the women
 and the children.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.