

The Tenth Sunday After Pentecost / August 2nd 2026

The Old Testament Reading

The Illumination

In this first reading, we hear some of the final verses written by the second of the three ancient prophets whose work Bible scholars believe has been consolidated into a single Isaiah figure in this memorable book of prophecy. The overall narrative of the book tells of the chosen people's loss of Jerusalem and the Temple; their exile to Babylon; and their eventual return home to Jerusalem, where they build a restored temple. In these verses, having assured the people that God has forgiven their failures of justice, Isaiah paints a beautiful image of God as the giver of life and sustenance and all that is good.

A reading from the Book of Isaiah: (55:1-5)

Thus says the Lord: "Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. 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. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, 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."

The Psalm

The Illumination

The Psalms incorporate a wide variety of genres: hope, lament, petition, and praise. It is a diverse anthology in which we can find the many ways that God's people approach the divine in worship and song. The final six Psalms in particular, beginning with Psalm 145, conclude the book with songs and shouts of praise. The two segments chosen for this reading celebrate the graciousness and compassion of God, who satisfies every living creature's needs and stands near to all who call.

We will read a portion of Psalm 145 responsively by whole verse

⁸ The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

⁹ ***The Lord is loving to everyone ****
and his compassion is over all his works.

¹⁵ The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

¹⁶ ***The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, ****
and you give them their food in due season.

¹⁷ You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

¹⁸ ***The Lord is righteous in all his ways ****
and loving in all his works.

¹⁹ The Lord is near to those who call upon him, *
to all who call upon him faithfully.

²⁰ ***He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; ****
he hears their cry and helps them.

²¹ The Lord preserves all those who love him, *
but he destroys all the wicked.

²² ***My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; ****
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.

The Epistle

The Illumination

In the portion that we read last week, Paul reminds the ancient Christian community in Rome that nothing can separate us all from God's love through Jesus. Now Paul recalls how God has remained faithful to the descendants of Abraham. Paul declares that he, like all Israel, has inherited God's covenant and commandments "through the flesh" of family heritage. Now, in this letter focused on urging Rome's Gentile and Jewish Christians to learn to love and accept one another, he declares that all who follow Jesus become children of God through the Spirit.

The Epistle is a reading from the letter to the Romans. (9:1-5)

I am speaking the truth in Christ-- I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit-- I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

The Gospel

The Illumination

The story of Jesus feeding the multitude by multiplying a few loaves and fishes is so beloved that it's repeated in varying forms in all four Gospels. The notion that many in the crowd shared their own supplies to supplement the feast rings true to anyone who's ever indulged in a church potluck. But then, so does the simple symbolism of God's faithful abundance ... and of Jesus taking bread and feeding the community. But ponder these words of Jesus: "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." Can we hear an echo of Jesus saying, "I was hungry and you gave me food ... just as you do it to one of the least of these, you do it to me"?

A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (14:13-21)

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. 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." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." 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. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.