

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

The LORD says this: 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 labour 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.

Isaiah 55.1–5

PSALM

You open wide your hand, O Lord.

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.

You open wide your hand, O Lord.

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.

You open wide your hand, O Lord.

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 fulfils the desire of those who fear him,

he hears their cry and helps them.

You open wide your hand, O Lord.

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.

You open wide your hand, O Lord.

Psalms 145.8–9, 15–22

THE SECOND READING

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 for ever. Amen.

Romans 9.1–5

GOSPEL

When Jesus heard that Herod had beheaded John the

Baptist, he 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.

Matthew 14.13–21