

18th Sunday Ordinary Time, Year – A

2 August 2026

First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-3

‘Come and eat’

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

Responsorial Psalm

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

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

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.

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

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.

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

The Lord is just in all his ways
and loving in all his deeds.
He is close to all who call him,
who call on him from their hearts.

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

Second Reading

Romans 8:35,37-39

*‘No created thing can ever come between us and the
love of God made visible in Christ’*

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

Gospel Acclamation *cf. Lk 19:38, 2:14*

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

'The feeding of the five thousand'

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 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

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father,
in your mercy you give to your
people every good gift.
We turn to you in faith,
asking that you bless our
Archdiocese with vocations
to the priesthood and religious life.
Inspire us with your Holy Spirit
to help young men and women
hear your call and respond
with joyful hearts.
Bless our young people with
the gift of courage to respond
to your call.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.