

Readings + 10th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 17 B + July 28, 2024

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your children a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

First Reading 2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴² A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to Elisha, the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, "Give it to the people and let them eat." ⁴³ But his servant said, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" So he repeated, "Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, "They shall eat and have some left." ⁴⁴ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

Psalmody Psalm 145:10-18

All your works shall praise you, O LORD, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; our dominion endures throughout all ages. You, LORD, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

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

You open wide your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

You are righteous in all your ways and loving in all your works.

You are near to all who call upon you, to all who call upon you faithfully.

Second Reading Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul writes: ¹⁴ For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵ from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶ I pray that, according to the riches of God's glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through God's Spirit, ¹⁷ and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸ I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth ¹⁹ and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰ Now to the one who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Holy Gospel John 6:1-15 [16-21 moved]

The story of Jesus feeding 5,000 (or more – Matthew says there were 5,000 men, "besides women and children") is fairly unique in that all four Gospels tell it. John is the only one with extended theological reflection and discourse following the episode, which we'll be hearing in the Gospels for the next month.

Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ² A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³ Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴ Now the Passover, the festival of the Jewish people, was near. ⁵ When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" ⁶ Jesus said this to test Philip, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷ Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little."

⁸ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, ⁹ "There is a boy here who

has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?”¹⁰ Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place, so they sat down, about five thousand in all.¹¹ Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.¹² When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.”¹³ So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.¹⁴ When the people saw the sign that Jesus had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵ When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

Note: the lectionary assigns verses 16-21 to this Sunday, the story of Jesus walking on water. However, we will read it next Sunday instead, continuing with the assigned Gospel for that day that begins at verse 22. Here are those moved verses:

¹⁶ When evening came, Jesus’ disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸ The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹ When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰ But Jesus said to them, “Here I am; do not be afraid.” ²¹ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.