

Old Testament Reading:
Isaiah 55:1–5

- 1 “Come, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and he who has no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without
price.
- 2 Why do you spend your money for
that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which
does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat
what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich
food.
- 3 Incline your ear, and come to me;
hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an ever-
lasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- 4 Behold, I made him a witness to
the peoples,
a leader and commander for the
peoples.
- 5 Behold, you shall call a nation that
you do not know,
and a nation that did not know
you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, and
of the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.”

Epistle: Romans 9:1–5

I am speaking the truth in Christ—
I am not lying; my conscience bears
me witness in the Holy Spirit—²that
I have great sorrow and unceasing
anguish in my heart. ³For I could
wish that I myself were accursed and
cut off from Christ for the sake of my

brothers, my kinsmen according to
the flesh. ⁴They are Israelites, and to
them belong the adoption, the glory,
the covenants, the giving of the law,
the worship, and the promises. ⁵To
them belong the patriarchs, and from
their race, according to the flesh, is
the Christ who is God over all, blessed
forever. Amen.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 14:13–21

¹³Now when Jesus heard [about the
death of John], he withdrew from
there in a boat to a desolate place by
himself. But when the crowds heard
it, they followed him on foot from the
towns. ¹⁴When he went ashore he saw
a great crowd, and he had compassion
on them and healed their sick. ¹⁵Now
when it was evening, the disciples
came to him and said, “This is a deso-
late place, and the day is now over;
send the crowds away to go into the
villages and buy food for themselves.”
¹⁶But Jesus said, “They need not go
away; you give them something to
eat.” ¹⁷They said to him, “We have
only five loaves here and two fish.”
¹⁸And he said, “Bring them here to
me.” ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds
to sit down on the grass, and taking
the five loaves and the two fish, he
looked up to heaven and said a bless-
ing. Then he broke the loaves and
gave them to the disciples, and the
disciples gave them to the crowds.
²⁰And they all ate and were satisfied.
And they took up twelve baskets full
of the broken pieces left over. ²¹And
those who ate were about five thou-
sand men, besides women and chil-
dren.



Those who ate were about five thousand



About the Cover: More than five thousand people pressed in on Jesus as He was seeking to withdraw to be by Himself. He did not turn them away but had compassion on them. He took what little was available, a mere five loaves and two fish, and gave them abundance. Our Lord also has compassion on us, feeding us in abundance with His gift of life, which was won for us by His cross and resurrection.