



Prayer of the Day

Almighty, eternal God, your kindness is far more than we desire or deserve. Generously pour out your mercy to forgive where our conscience is afraid and to provide that for which by ourselves, we do not even presume to pray; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First 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. ²Why 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. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵Behold, 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."

Psalm 136:1-9 [23-26]

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for | he is good,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever.
²Give thanks to the | God of gods,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever.
³Give thanks to the | LORD of lords,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever.
⁴Who only | does great wonders,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever;
⁵Who by wisdom | made the heavens,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever;
⁶Who spread out the earth up- | on the waters,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever;
⁷Who creat- | ed great lights,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever;
⁸The sun to | rule the day,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever;
⁹The moon and the stars to gov- | ern the night,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever.
²³Who remembered us in our | low estate,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever;
²⁴And delivered us | from our enemies,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever;
²⁵Who gives food | to all creatures,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever.
²⁶Give thanks to the | God of heaven,*
for his mercy en- | dures forever.]

Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5 [6-13]

¹I 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. [⁶But it is not as though the word of God has failed. For not all who are descended from Israel belong to Israel, ⁷and not all are children of Abraham because they are his offspring, but "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." ⁸This means that it is not the children of the flesh who are the children of God, but the children of the promise are counted as offspring. ⁹For this is what the promise said: "About this time next year I will return, and Sarah shall have a son." ¹⁰And not only so, but also when Rebekah had conceived children by one man, our forefather Isaac, ¹¹though they were not yet born and had done nothing either good or bad — in order that God's purpose of election might continue, not because of works but because of him who calls — ¹²she was told, "The older will serve the younger." ¹³As it is written, "Jacob I loved, but Esau I hated."]

Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21

¹³When Jesus heard {of John the Baptist's death}, 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 desolate 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 blessing. 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 thousand men, besides women and children.

Lessons for Next Week: Job 38:4-18; Psalm 18:1-6 [7-16];
Romans 10:5-17; Matthew 14:22-33