

AUGUST 2, 2020  
NINTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*God's generosity is like no other.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

Sunday	Matthew 14:13-21	Jesus feeds the five thousand
Monday	Isaiah 55:1-5	An invitation to abundant life
Tuesday	Romans 9:1-5	God's choice of Israel
Wednesday	Genesis 32:22-31	Jacob wrestles at Peniel
Thursday	Psalms 17:1-7, 15	Prayer for deliverance
Friday	1 Timothy 6:11-19	The good fight of faith
Saturday	Psalms 145:8-9, 14-21	The Lord is kind and merciful
Sunday	Matthew 14:22-33	Jesus walks on water

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

Ho, 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. **Isaiah 55:1 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Dear God, we thank you for inviting us to the banquet feast that has no end and is filled with joy and life in your presence through our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Dear God, the eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand, satisfying the desire of every living thing. Amen. (Psalm 145:15-16)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God of abundance fill you with joy and peace in believing.



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AUGUST 2, 2020  
HYMN OF THE WEEK

*You Satisfy the  
Hungry Heart*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS

Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- What is a dream you have for your future?
- Tell or think about a time you had a dream that came true.
- How do your dreams reflect your faith in Christ?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read:* Isaiah 55:1-5.

Feasting is a biblical image of God's providence and grace. In Matthew 14 we have Jesus feeding the masses, not just five thousand people, but five thousand men plus the women and children. It comes right after the beheading of John the Baptist at another feast, the banquet of King Herod. Just as Jesus' banquet is a far cry from other earthly feasts, so is God's invitation to eat and drink without payment unique to other economies we experience. Isaiah 55 includes a challenge to all who want glory and feasting: "Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy?" (55:2). Isaiah gets to the heart of the problem of life: pursuing that which is not important, not essential. And now, ever since Jesus fed the masses, God has reached out to all people with the promise of true joy envisioned in a banquet feast that never ends. What is it that you want to pursue in life? Does your pursuit reflect the faith and joy of being invited to God's banquet? Why or why not?

*Pray:* **God of abundant joy, help us to remember and believe that your kingdom gives us a joy like no other through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE

The crowds followed Jesus. Jesus "had compassion for them and cured their sick" (Matthew 14:14b). There are many organizations that are treating and researching cures for diseases. Think or talk about ways to support or donate to an organization that is doing this work.

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

God's love and care for people is shown in the Bible with stories of meals and feasts. Invite friends or someone you may not know very well for a meal in your home. Begin the meal with a prayer and engage in caring conversations as you enjoy the meal together. After guests leave, take time to think about what you enjoyed the most as you prepared and hosted the meal. End your day with this or a similar prayer: **Lord, help me to find joy in your abundant care for us. Amen.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)