

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Priest's Tidings

In every Eucharistic celebration Jesus invites us to eat and drink with him. We are the people not only at the Last Supper but also at the multiplication of bread. We were and are present there. He does not want us to remain hungry for we can find in him all that is good and valuable. He gives us himself and he is asking us to do the same: give the people food to eat, give them yourselves. We ask the Lord to help us do this.

The media remind us almost daily of the hunger for food in many parts of the world. There is also much spiritual hunger, hunger and thirst for values, for something to hold on to and to hope for. Jesus gave to the people the food of compassion, his word of forgiveness, and especially the food of himself, of his body. He invites us, his disciples today, to give ourselves away as the food and drink of others. We ask during this Eucharist for the courage to do so.

Fr Hugo



Entrance Hymn: 721 - Love divine, all love excelling,

Collect:

Draw near to your servants, O Lord,
and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness,
that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide,
you may restore what you have created
and keep safe what you have restored.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First Reading:**Reading from the book of Isaiah 55**

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.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

R./ 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.**R/**

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.**R/**

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.**R/**

Gospel Acclamation :

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 Reading

Hear the The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, O Christ

Prayers of Intercession

R/ Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We ask your blessing upon all who hunger and thirst for righteousness and the coming of your kingdom. We remember all who feel their lives are parched and dry and who suffer from spiritual hunger. May the Good News be brought to all who feel empty and that life is meaningless. We bring before you all who go out in mission and all who seek to proclaim your love. **R/**

We ask your blessing upon all who lack the necessary resources for well-being. We pray for all who are suffering from hunger and poverty, all who struggle due to injustice and greed. We remember all who have lost crops and livestock through famine, drought or war. We pray for the work of Christian Aid and for all who seek to bring relief to the hungry and poor. **R/**

We give thanks for our loved ones, for all who have cared and provided for us. We ask your blessing upon all who work to give us what we need. We pray for all farmers and food providers, for shop workers and all who bring our food to the markets. We ask your blessing upon our families and our neighbours. **R/**

We remember all who feel weary with life, drained of energy and no longer able to cope. We pray for all who struggle against great odds. We ask your blessing upon all who feel alone and that no one cares for them. We pray for all who are ill at home or in hospital. **R/**

Heavenly Father, we lift St Matthew's Elephant and Castle to You. By Your Spirit, grow Your church in number, faith, and love. Draw those who are searching to Christ, equip us to share the Gospel with boldness, and make us a welcoming community where lives are transformed. May all who come encounter Your presence. In Jesus' mighty name we pray. Amen.**R/**

Merciful Father, **accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen**

Offertory Hymn: The steadfast Love of the Lord never ceases,

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end.
They are new every morning, new every morning;
great is your faithfulness, O Lord,
great is your faithfulness.

Communion Hymn: 602 - I Hear the voice of Jesus say,

Post Communion Prayer:

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where you reign
with all your saints for ever.**Amen**

ALL: Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice. Strengthen us by the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. **Amen.**

Recessional 794 - The King of love my shepherd is,

Prayer and Meditation

Reflection Reading:

Matthew 14 presents a journey of growing faith in Jesus. At first, the people of his hometown reject him because they only see him as the carpenter's son and fail to recognise his divine identity. After leaving them, Jesus shows compassion for the crowds by healing the sick and feeding thousands with a few loaves of bread.

The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves highlights both the disciples' human limitations and Jesus' divine power. While the disciples want to send the hungry crowd away, Jesus tells them to feed the people and miraculously provides more than enough food for everyone. The abundance of leftovers shows God's generous provision.

Matthew also gives the miracle a Eucharistic meaning. Jesus' actions—taking the bread, looking up to heaven, blessing it, breaking it, and giving it to the disciples—foreshadow the Last Supper and reveal that Jesus is the true provider who nourishes both the physical and spiritual needs of his people. Through this miracle, the disciples and the crowd are led toward a deeper recognition of Jesus as the Son of God.

Personal Questions:

- Do you show solidarity to those around you?
- How do you help friends or family solve their problems?
- Do you thank God for your daily blessings?
- Do you share what you have with those in need, especially the poor?

Concluding Prayer:

Keep me far from the way of deceit, grant me the grace of your Law. Do not deprive me of that faithful word, since my hope lies in your judgements. Amen

What's happening in our Parish!

Sunday

Mission WhatsApp Groups

We have a series of WhatsApp groups with activities voted for by the congregation. Please have a look and see if you would like to join one: if you are already in one, please think of ways you can proactively help run the activity you have volunteered for.

Welcoming at our Eucharist

Are you able to arrive at 9.15am to help welcome people into our church? If so, it would be lovely to have you join the welcoming team! Please chat to Cynthia so we can add you to the rota

Regular Giving

Many thanks for your generous giving to the ministry of St Matthews' each week. If you have taken home a red envelope please fill out the form and return it so we can plan our future developments of St Matthew's



Youth Club

Our Youth Club runs on Fridays from 5-7pm at Christ Church, 90 Brixton Road, SW9 6BE. All 14-18 year olds are welcome!

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