

Sunday Readings

2nd August 2026

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, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the Lord:

'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.

Why do you spend your money for that which is
not bread,

and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,

and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline 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.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 144:8-9,15-18 R/. v.16

**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.

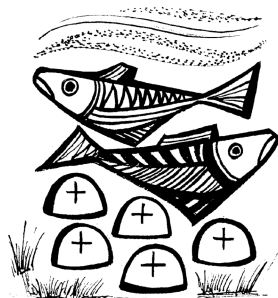
How good is the Lord to all,
compassionate to all his creatures. **R/.**

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/.**



SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul
to the Romans

8:35,37-39

Brothers and Sisters: Who shall separate us from the
love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or
sword? No, in all these things we are more than
conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure
that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor
things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor
height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 4:4b

Alleluia, alleluia.

One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes forth from the mouth
of God.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

The Lord be with you. *And with your Spirit.*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time: When Jesus heard of the death of John
the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a desolate place
by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they
followed him on foot from the towns. When he went
ashore he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion
on them and healed their sick. Now 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.' But Jesus said, 'They need not go away;
you give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'We
have only five loaves here and two fish.' And he said,
'Bring them here to me.' Then 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. And they all ate and were satisfied. And they
took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left
over. And those who ate were about five thousand
men, besides women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord,
Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Prayer after Communion

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord,
those you renew with these heavenly gifts
and, in your never-failing care for them,
make them worthy of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary Year A

The Word of God

Saint of the Week

Monday 3rd August 2026

St Oswald (c.604 - 642)

(One of our Soldier Saints, represented
in the East Window)

How hungry are you? In the readings today we meet both physical and spiritual hunger. For sure we must eat physical food to go on living. We need to understand that real people need to eat and cannot live just on spiritual longings. On the other hand, many people get so caught up in their physical desires and needs that they effectively block spiritual hunger for long periods of time in their lives. Some people would even claim never to have had spiritual hunger.

For those of us who are aware of our spiritual hunger, there is a challenge to find the food that will help us live spiritually. Even if we have had many years in the Church, we can still ignore our spiritual hunger and get caught up in other realities.

The Prophet Isaiah today, in our first reading, is speaking to people who have known the revelation of God, whose ancestors encountered the living God. Yet all of these people have gone astray in spite of these experiences. Some of us have had spiritual experiences and then forgotten them or ignored them or have not pursued the reality present in those experiences.

The reading from the Letter to the Romans today assures us that nothing can separate us from the love of Christ. We can personally choose against that love yet Christ continues to love us. Many of us spend great parts of our lives choosing against that love, and finally we might recognize a spiritual hunger in ourselves and begin to choose for love at least a bit less inconsistently.

Jesus wants to cure us and heal us. Jesus wants to feed us. Even in his days on earth, when He was tired and worn out and discouraged, Jesus still consistently chose to love us. This teaches us how to love as well and how to feed others. We are expected not just to eat, but to feed others.

So the readings today challenge us to see our own hunger, to begin to work with the hunger that is within us, to seek the Lord. Then we must open our eyes and our hearts and see the hunger all

around us. Then we can begin to walk in the steps of our Lord Jesus and heal and feed others.



Saint Oswald was born at the very beginning of the 7th century. He was the youngest son of the pagan Ethelfrid, the first king of a united Northumbria. After his father's death in battle, the young Oswald fled to Iona for safety and was baptised there and became a devoted Christian.

In 633 Oswald returned to Northumbria to regain his father's kingdom. It was said that he set up a wooden cross as his standard and dedicated himself and his people to God's protection before engaging himself in battle with the occupying Welsh King Cadwallon, not far from the present Hexham. He defeated and killed Cadwallon and at once invited the monks from Iona to begin the evangelisation of his kingdom which extended from the Forth to the Humber. After initial difficulties, the monk Aidan was sent to lead these Irish missionaries and Oswald found him to be both a valued adviser and a good friend. Oswald took seriously the work of bringing Christianity to his people and was even known to accompany Aidan on his missionary expeditions and to act as interpreter during the time Aidan was learning the language of the English. He was also well known both for his personal prayerfulness and his charity to those in need.

Sadly the reign of King Oswald lasted only eight years. In 642 he was killed in battle by Penda the pagan king of the Mercians. It was said that as he fell in death he was heard to pray for those who died with him. Oswald was a popular hero and his reputation as a saint was widespread even into mainland Europe.

Prayer of the Week

A Prayer of St Aidan of Lindisfarne

O Lord, giver of life and source of freedom,
Leave me alone with God as much as may be.
As the tide draws the waters close in upon the shore,
Make me an island, set apart,
alone with you, God, holy to you.

Then with the turning of the tide
prepare me to carry your presence to the busy
world beyond,
the world that rushes in on me
till the waters come again and fold me back to
you.
Amen.