

Celebrate

Sunday, August 2, 2026
10th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry.

Prayer of the Day

Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

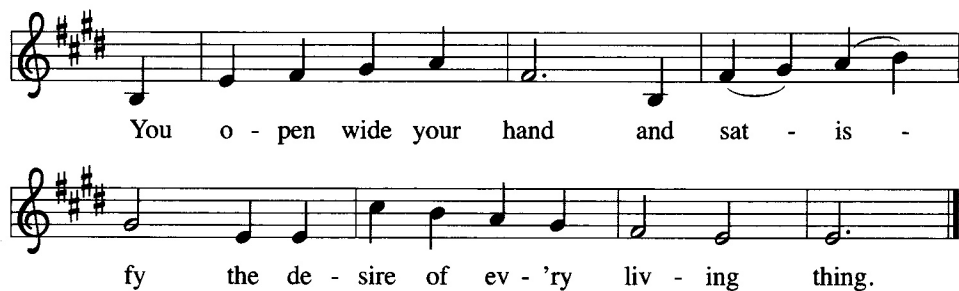
First Reading

Isaiah 55:1-5

God invites Israel to a great feast at which both food and drink are free. God also promises to make an everlasting covenant with all peoples, with promises that previously had been limited to Israel. As David was a witness to the nations, these nations shall now acknowledge the ways in which God has glorified Israel.

Hear, everyone who thirsts;
come to the waters;
and you who have 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 earnings for that which
does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what
is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting
covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
⁴See, I made him a witness to the
peoples,
a leader and commander for the
peoples.
⁵Now you shall call nations that you
do not know,
and nations that do not know you
shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the
Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.



The LORD is gracious and full [|] of compassion,
slow to anger and abounding in [|] steadfast love.

⁹**LORD, you are [|] good to all,
and your compassion is over [|] all your works. R**

¹⁴The Lord upholds all [|] those who fall
and lifts up those who [|] are bowed down.

¹⁵**The eyes of all wait upon [|] you, O LORD,
and you give them their food [|] in due season.**

¹⁶You open [|] wide your hand
and satisfy the desire of every [|] living thing.

¹⁷**You are righteous in [|] all your ways
and loving in [|] all your works. R**

¹⁸You are near to all who [|] call upon you,
to all who call up- [|] on you faithfully.

¹⁹**You fulfill the desire of [|] those who fear you;
you hear their [|] cry and save them.**

²⁰You watch over all [|] those who love you,
but all the wicked you [|] shall destroy.

²¹**My mouth shall speak the praise [|] of the LORD;
let all flesh bless God's holy name forev- [|] er and ever. R**

This begins a new section in Paul's letter in which he will deal with the place of Israel in God's saving plan. He opens by highlighting how Israel's heritage and legacy include being God's children, having God's covenants, being given God's law, participating in worship of God, and receiving divine promises.

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—²I 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 own brothers and sisters, my own flesh

and blood. 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 them, according to the flesh, comes the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

Gospel

Matthew 14:13-21

After John the Baptist is murdered, Jesus desires a time of solitude. Still, his compassion for others will not allow him to dismiss those who need him, and he is moved to perform one of his greatest miracles.

Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist,] he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted 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 for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you

give them something to eat." ¹⁷They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

With bold trust in God’s unfailing provision, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation.

A brief silence.

For your church in every place, that it satisfies those who hunger for your word. Bless the ministry of readers, translators, Bible study leaders, and writers, that God’s word is broken open and shared with all. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For your wondrous creation and all the bounty it provides, that your creatures are fed and nourished. Bless the work of farmers, farmworkers, those who fish, and all whose labor brings your abundance to our tables. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For your children in every nation, that they learn to love justice and live in harmony. As this week we remember the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, keep us mindful of the horrors of war; draw our hearts instead toward your reign of love, hope, and peace. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For all who cry out with great sorrow and unceasing anguish, that they are comforted. Feed all who struggle with food insecurity; have mercy on all who are suffering in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*). Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

For this congregation, that it bears faithful witness to the abundance and joy of life in you. Bless all your faithful people gathered here, that they may become blessings for this community. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With thanksgiving for the faithful who now rest in your mercy, that their witness continues to inspire the church. By their example, may we trust your promises in life and in death. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday Psalm 78:1-8, 17-29. **Tuesday** Acts 2:37-47. **Wednesday** Exodus 16:2-15, 31-35. **Thursday** Psalm 85:8-13. **Friday** Acts 18:24-28. **Saturday** (commemoration of Dominic, founder of the Order of Preachers [Dominicans], died 1221) 1 Kings 18:41-46. **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost** 1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 85:8-13; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33.

CELEBRATE August 2, 2026 (Lectionary 18)

Volume 57, Number 3

CELEBRATE (ISSN 1083-3242, USPS 763-460) is published quarterly by Augsburg Fortress, 411 Washington Avenue North, Third Floor, Minneapolis, MN, 55401. Periodicals postage paid in St. Paul, MN and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to Celebrate, Augsburg Fortress Publishers, P.O. Box 1553, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1553. Printed in U.S.A. Price per weekly part \$5.79 per 100 copies; price in Canada subject to exchange rates. Minimum order 50 copies of each issue; all orders must be in multiples of 50. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Prayer of the day, psalm, and readings during the week from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* © 2006, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Refrain music by Ray Makeever. Refrain accompaniment is in *Psalter for Worship, Year A* (Augsburg Fortress, 2007). Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org. Lectionary year A.

CELEBRATE is protected through trademark registration in the U.S.A. and Canada.

ITEM014655 Tracks 1 and 2