

## Our Lady of Perpetual Help

# Reflecting On Sunday's Readings

THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — AUGUST 2, 2020

### First Reading — Isaiah 55:1-3

<sup>1</sup>“Ho, every one 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. <sup>2</sup>Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Harken diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in fatness. <sup>3</sup>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.

### Responsorial Psalm Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

R. (cf. 16) **The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. **The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The eyes of all look hopefully to you,  
and you give them their food in due season;  
you open your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R. **The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The LORD is just in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.

R. **The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

### Second Reading — Romans 8:35, 37-39

<sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ... <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>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.

### Gospel Reading — Matthew 14:13-21

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a lonely place apart. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>As he went ashore he saw a great throng; and he had compassion on them, and healed their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a lonely place, and the day is now over; send the crowds away to go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” <sup>17</sup>They said to him, “We have only five loaves here and two fish.” <sup>18</sup>And he said, “Bring them here to me.” <sup>19</sup>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 blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And they all ate and were satisfied. And they took up twelve baskets full of the broken pieces left over. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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### INVITATION TO PRAY

Pause for a few moments of silence and enter more deeply into the presence of God...

### Proclaim the Scriptures out loud

As you listen to the scriptures be attentive to a word, a phrase, a question, an image, or a feeling that emerges. Reflect on this quietly or share it aloud.

### INVITATION TO REFLECT

### INVITATION TO GROUP SHARING

#### First Reading —

1. From your experience, why do people not have a hunger for spiritual food?

#### Second Reading —

2. In light of this passage, how do you explain the times when you have felt separated from the love of Christ?

#### Gospel Reading —

3. Where do you see yourself in this story?
4. What “fish” do you have to share with a hungry world?
5. What principles of evangelization do you see revealed in this incident?

### INVITATION TO ACT

*Determine a specific action (individual or group) that flows from your sharing. When choosing an individual action, determine what you will do and share it with the group. When choosing a group action, determine who will take responsibility for different aspects of the action. These should be your primary considerations.*

### CLOSING INVITATION TO PRAY

*Give thanks to God (aloud or silently) for new insights, for desires awakened, for directions clarified, for the gift of one another’s openness and sensitivity. Conclude with a final prayer.*