

AUGUST 6, 2023  
TENTH SUNDAY  
AFTER PENTECOST



*Jesus' compassion leads to action.*

### 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	Psalms 25:1-10	Pray for guidance
Thursday	Exodus 34:1-9	Moses makes new tablets
Friday	1 Peter 3:8-22	Suffering for doing right
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

*"When he [Jesus] went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. Matthew 14:14 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### A Prayer for the Week:

God of abundance, you shower us with your steadfast love. Give us compassionate hearts to care for others through Christ our Lord. 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 compassion give you joy through Christ our Lord.



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### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Let Us Talents and  
Tongues Employ*



### 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:

- In what ways do you show concern for someone who is suffering?
- In what ways have you experienced God caring for your needs?

### DEVOTIONS

*Read: Matthew 14:13-21.*

The reading begins with Jesus being made aware of his cousin's death, the beheading of John the Baptist (Matthew 14:8-10). Jesus removed himself from people to grieve in an isolated place. However, the crowds followed him and his alone time was ended before it really had a chance to begin. Instead of showing frustration or anger at the relentless crowds, Jesus showed compassion on them. He healed their sick and then fed the masses who remained with him into the evening. The feeding of the 5,000 men (plus women and children) was a miraculous event motivated by a grieving, yet loving Jesus. Nothing could stop his love. It is a love that is shown in his actions. Those actions lead his followers to be involved, too. Jesus sets the table and blesses the food but his disciples go out to distribute it and pick up the leftovers.

*Discuss: What do you think it was like for Jesus to be so sorrowful, and yet compassionate enough to heal and to feed his followers?*

*Pray: Compassionate God, you provide for us in ways that go beyond what we can imagine. Help us to see your love in the world and to be a part of your love for the world through Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

### SERVICE

Jesus calls us to serve our neighbor in love. Based on the Daily Bible Readings for this week, how might you help others who lack food or adequate healthcare?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

In the feeding of the five thousand, Jesus took what the disciples brought to him and used it to feed the whole crowd. Cut out a fish or loaf-of-bread shape for yourself and other household members. Write each person's name on it. As part of your home devotions, name talents or gifts that you see in one another. Write these down on your "loaves" or "fish." Think or talk about ways that you can bless others through the God-given gifts and talents that were named. Say this blessing: **May the God of abundance guide you to use your gifts to bless others.**



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)