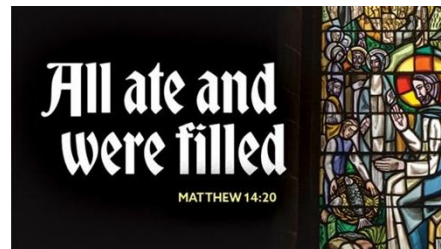


The Readings on This Day

****Click on the links for the Bible Verse(s)*

Sunday, July 31–August 6

Lectionary 18



For several weeks now, Matthew's theme of judgment gives over to his stories of divine mercy. Later in the fall the theme of judgment returns.

[Isaiah 55:1-5](#)

Already heard at this year's Easter Vigil as a picture of the resurrection, this Sunday the sixth-century poem in Second Isaiah presents the metaphor of food as background to the narrative of the feeding of the five thousand. The Old Testament includes both many poems with the metaphor of food and many narratives of God's miraculous feedings.

[The Psalm for the Day](#)

We respond to the food metaphor in Isaiah 55 with [Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21](#), another poem that uses food as a metaphor for all of God's blessings. Verses 15-16 have become a common thanksgiving at Christian mealtimes. In the gospel we join with the hungry crowd on the mountain, and here we sing our confidence that God will meet our needs.

[Romans 9:1-5](#)

Centuries of Christian teaching that only Christians can be saved stand in contrast to Paul's confidence that God's promises to the Jews continue. Paul assumes that both Jews and Gentiles are being fed by God on the mountain.

[Matthew 14:13-21](#)

Christians have seen the stories of the feeding of the multitude as pictures of both the proclamation of the word, by which God's people thrive, and holy communion,

in which the blessing of Jesus creates continuous food for his people. The miracle takes place each Sunday.