
Bulletin Fillers

Proper 13 (Ordinary 18) · 2026-08-02 · Ordinary Time (Green)

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THIS WEEK IN THE CHURCH YEAR

This Sunday we observe Proper 13 (Ordinary 18) in the season of Ordinary Time. You'll notice the color green on the paraments, stole, and banners — our liturgical color for the day. The Revised Common Lectionary appoints these readings: Matthew 14:13-21; Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21; and Romans 9:1-5. We are in Year A of the three-year lectionary cycle.

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT

Sorrow and Abundance

Paul writes with “great sorrow and unceasing pain” for his own people, Israel—to whom belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, and the promises. Yet in the Gospel, Jesus, a son of Israel, steps ashore to find a crowd from those very villages. He doesn't mourn; he has compassion, heals their sick, and then feeds them in abundance. The twelve leftover baskets might whisper of the twelve tribes. This meal on the grass is a quiet sign that the promises Paul anguished over are being satisfied right before him in overflowing bread.

ARCHAEOLOGY & GEOGRAPHY

The “Jesus Boat”

In 1986, a severe drought lowered the Sea of Galilee, exposing the remains of an ancient wooden boat. Dated to the first century, it closely matches the fishing vessels that crisscrossed the lake in Jesus' time. Now on display at the Yigal Allon Museum, the so-called “Jesus Boat” offers a tangible link to the kind of boat mentioned in Matthew 14:13—when Jesus withdrew across the water to a deserted place. Though we can't know if he ever stepped aboard this very craft, it brings to life the lakeside world of that day.

A WORD IN THE ORIGINAL

Gut-Felt Compassion

When Jesus saw the crowd, Matthew writes that he 'had compassion' on them. The Greek verb is *esplanchnisthe*, from *splanchna*—literally the inward parts, bowels, or guts. Ancient people believed the viscera were the seat of deep emotions, much like we say 'a gut feeling.' Jesus's compassion wasn't a detached pity but a visceral, churning response that moved him to act. In him, God's own heart is revealed as one that aches and reaches out to heal.

These notes were drafted with AI and screened by a second fact-checking pass, but we are not infallible — please verify any historical, archaeological, or original-language detail against a trusted commentary before you print.