

Matthew 14:13-21

The Common English Bible

¹³When Jesus heard about John, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. When the crowds learned this, they followed him on foot from the cities. ¹⁴When Jesus arrived and saw a large crowd, he had compassion for them and healed those who were sick. ¹⁵That evening his disciples came and said to him, “This is an isolated place and it’s getting late. Send the crowds away so they can go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” ¹⁶But Jesus said to them, “There’s no need to send them away. You give them something to eat.” ¹⁷They replied, “We have nothing here except five loaves of bread and two fish.” ¹⁸He said, “Bring them here to me.” ¹⁹He ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. He took the five loaves of bread and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them and broke the loaves apart and gave them to his disciples. Then the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰Everyone ate until they were full, and they filled twelve baskets with the leftovers. ²¹About five thousand men plus women and children had eaten.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

The Common English Bible

¹Listen to what’s right, Lord; pay attention to my cry!
Listen closely to my prayer; it’s spoken by lips that don’t lie!
²My justice comes from you; let your eyes see what is right!

**³You have examined my heart, testing me at night.
You’ve looked me over closely, but haven’t found anything wrong. My mouth doesn’t sin.**

⁴But these other people’s deeds? I have avoided such violent ways by the command from your lips.

⁵My steps are set firmly on your paths; my feet haven’t slipped.

⁶I cry out to you because you answer me. So tilt your ears toward me now - listen to what I’m saying!

**⁷Manifest your faithful love in amazing ways
because you are the one who saves those who take refuge in you, saving them from their attackers by your strong hand.**

¹⁵But me? I will see your face in righteousness...

when I awake, I will be filled full by seeing your image.

Romans 9:1-5

The Common English Bible

¹I'm speaking the truth in Christ - I'm not lying, as my conscience assures me with the Holy Spirit: ²I have great sadness and constant pain in my heart. ³I wish I could be cursed, cut off from Christ if it helped my brothers and sisters, who are my flesh-and-blood relatives. ⁴They are Israelites. The adoption as God's children, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the Law, the worship, and the promises belong to them. ⁵The Jewish ancestors are theirs, and the Christ descended from those ancestors. He is the one who rules over all things, who is God, and who is blessed forever. Amen.