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**READING: Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21**

<sup>8</sup>The LORD is gracious and full of compassion,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
<sup>9</sup>**LORD, you are good to all,  
and your compassion is over all your works.**  
<sup>14</sup>The Lord upholds all those who fall  
and lifts up those who are bowed down.  
<sup>15</sup>**The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD,  
and you give them their food in due season.**  
<sup>16</sup>You open wide your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.  
<sup>17</sup>**You are righteous in all your ways  
and loving in all your works.**  
<sup>18</sup>You are near to all who call upon you,  
to all who call upon you faithfully.  
<sup>19</sup>**You fulfill the desire of those who fear you;  
you hear their cry and save them.**  
<sup>20</sup>You watch over all those who love you,  
but all the wicked you shall destroy.  
<sup>21</sup>**My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD;  
let all flesh bless God's holy name forever and ever.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 14:13-21**

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard [about the beheading of John the Baptist], he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." <sup>17</sup>They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves 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. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.