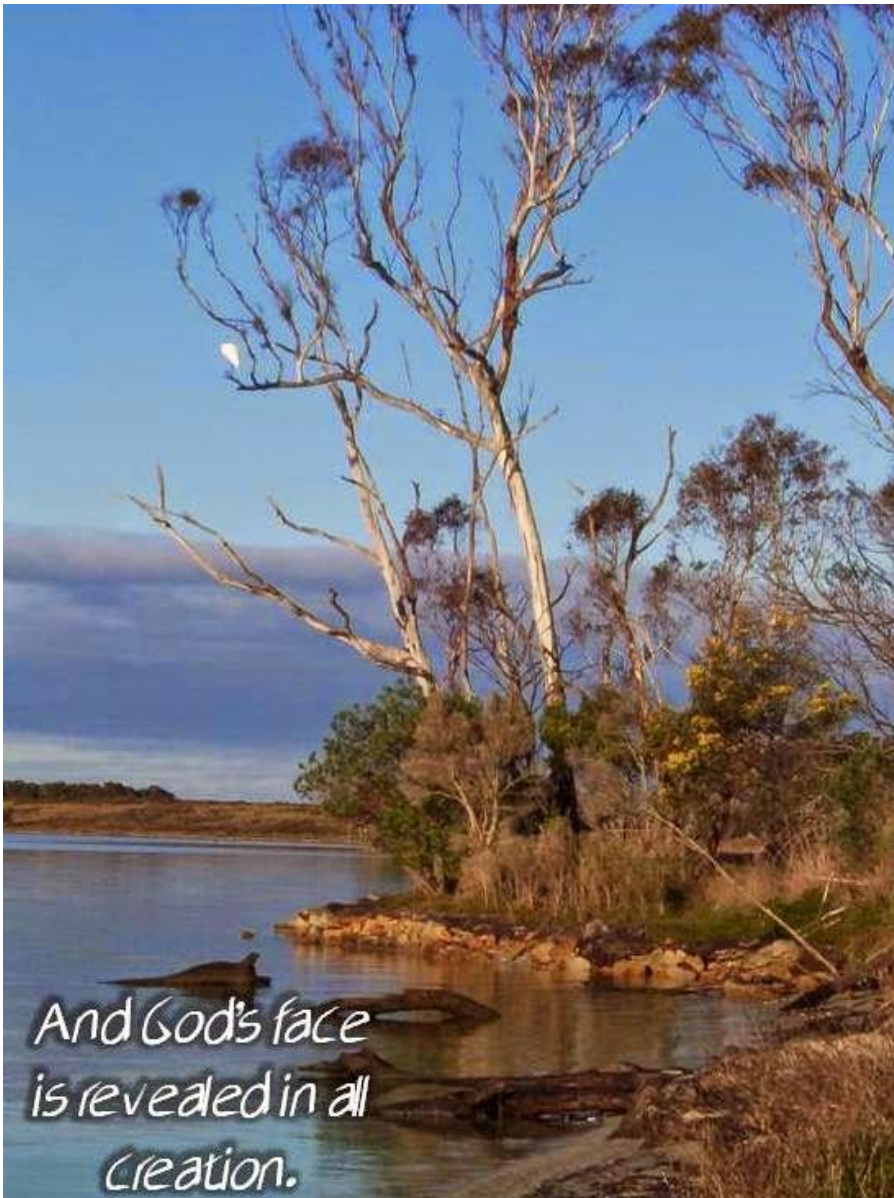


Eighth Sunday after Trinity



Isaiah 55. 1 - 5

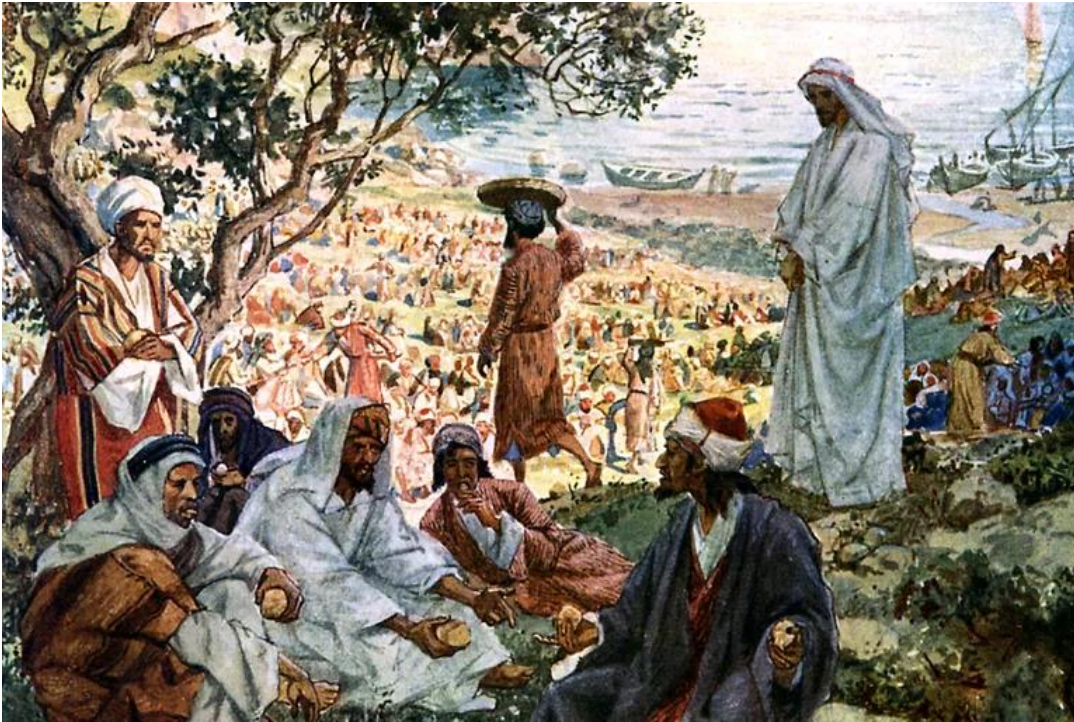
The Lord says this;
everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without
price.
Why do you spend your money
for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that
which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat
what is good,
and delight yourselves in
rich food.
Incline your ear, and come to
me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an
everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for
David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.
See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run
to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Matthew 14. 13 – 21

Now when Jesus heard that Herod had beheaded 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. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had
compassion for them and cured their sick. 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.' Jesus said to them, 'They need
not go away; you give them something to eat.' They replied, 'We have nothing here but
five loaves and two fish.' And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' 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. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.



©The Feeding of the Five Thousand by William Hole (1846-1917).

Reflection

The bits left over, what of those?

Pieces left strewn around,
no longer required.

A plethora of scraps, yet Christ leaves none discarded
but calls for all to be gathered in,
saved and treasured.

Baskets filled with an extravagance,
excess cherished.

Symbolism that can only be imagined.

A hungry crowd, a boy's packed lunch, a great big picnic.
People fed and still enough to go on sharing the blessing,
abundance, and grace of God

Lord God,
your Son left the riches of heaven
and became poor for our sake:
when we prosper save us from pride,
when we are needy save us from despair,
that we may trust in you alone;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen