



Scripture Readings August 1

Psalms 17:1-7, 15

(translated by Lynn Baumann)

O God, as judge of everything and all, hear my plea of innocence, this cry, this prayer; it does not come to you from lips that lie. You be the judge and let what vindication there is to be, come from your presence O you whose eyes discern the right and wrong. You visit me at night in search of truth, you assess the heart, so test me for impurities. My mouth speaks no offence as others do, for I follow only what falls from your own lips. I walk in truth and beauty on your smooth path, I walk before you and all your ways are mine, O God. I call to you and hear the answer of your voice, for your ear is ever near my lips to hear my words. You show me the wonder of your love, and grasp me in your strong hands to hide me safe. But I, when I awaken, shall see your face my God, I shall gaze upon your image and be satisfied.

Matthew 14:13-21

Now when Jesus heard this, 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.