



**Sunday 2 August 2026 to
Sunday 9 August 2026**



**LUTHERAN
CHURCH**
OF AUSTRALIA

Sunday 2 August 2026

Are you hungry?

by Mark Gierus

They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces that were left over (Matthew 14:20).

Read [Matthew 14:13-21](#)

Have you ever been really hungry? Then, when you finally eat, you still look for a bit more? You know the sort of meal that doesn't really fill you up. You get that sometimes with junk food – you eat and think it should fill you, but you are still hungry afterwards and not satisfied.

Do you ever hunger for spiritual things? For a deep peace in who you are and what you have been created to be? Are you searching for something more than you currently have? You might look for advice or answers from others, but you are not filled or satisfied with what you hear.

Jesus fed five thousand men, not counting the women and children, with five loaves and two fish. We are told all ate and were satisfied, and there were still 12 baskets of food left over.

In your own life, do you long to be fed and filled by Jesus? Jesus is the bread of life, the bread from heaven, who will feed you until you are full, totally satisfied and at peace.

It is Jesus who died on the cross for your sins so that you might be forgiven. It is Jesus who gives you all you need for this life and the next, not just providing you with daily things, like food and water, clothing, shelter, employment and family and friends, but also with his precious word that will satisfy your soul. Your spiritual hunger will be satisfied in Jesus as you spend time with him in his word.

Jesus satisfies your whole being, filling you with his love, peace, hope and joy so that you may live in the abundance of God's blessing. If you are not satisfied or feel you are lacking something in this life, ask Jesus, who is with you always and wants to provide all you need today, tomorrow and forever.

Dear Jesus, I am hungry for all that you offer. Feed me, O bread of life, and satisfy all my needs. Amen.

Pastor Mark Gierus currently serves as a Lutheran pastor in the Alberton Lutheran Parish, including the LORDS school at Ormeau in Queensland. He is married to Kerstin, and they have three beautiful girls aged 9, 13 and 23. They enjoy family things like hiking, going to the beach, singing and jamming, looking after their pets and going on road trips. Mark and Kerstin pray that God will continue to bless you as you grow in him and come to know him more and more through his life-giving eternal word.

Monday 3 August 2026

Know the Lord

by Mark Gierus

I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites ... in the morning, you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God (Exodus 16:12).

Read [Exodus 16:2-4,9-15](#)

How do you get to know someone? It takes time – sitting with them, listening to them and sharing who you are. This is how connections and relationships grow.

How well do you know God? Have you ever spent time pondering who God is, but more importantly, who God is in your life? What are the experiences you have had with God along the way? You might only be at the beginning of your journey with God, who made you in his own image, or perhaps you have been walking with him for many years. But what do you know of God, and how have you come to know his love?

In any relationship, there are things we might hide because we fear the other person would see us differently if they knew our mistakes and failures. But God already knows the whole of you, including all your mistakes, your sins and failings and all those things you'd rather just hide from everyone.

Do you know that God loves you as you are? Even when he sees your worries, doubts, fears, grumbings and sins. He loves you and wants to provide for you. To feed you when you are hungry and give you all good things because he cares.

The Israelites were grumbling about their situation after God had brought them out of Egypt through the Red Sea, rescuing them so that they might be free from slavery, and yet they grumbled. But what does God do for them? He provides for them in their need out of deep love for them.

So how well do you know God? Know that his love was in action when he gave up his only Son, Jesus. Out of his great love for the world, God sent Jesus to suffer and die on the cross for our sins. Jesus offers you forgiveness and sets you free so that you can live in him and know the peace he gives.

Dear God, help me to know you more and more each day and to see all of the blessings you have given to me. Thank you that I am yours. Amen.

Tuesday 4 August 2026

More than a safe place

by Mark Gierus

May you be richly rewarded by the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge (Ruth 2:12).

Read [Ruth 2:1-18](#)

Don't you love a good reading nook or a special place in the garden to sit quietly and feel like you have a place of refuge to get away from it all? Where do you go to find refuge in the busyness of life? In the daily challenges, where do you find peace and refuge?

Perhaps you are in a season where you don't feel you have a place just to be? You feel like you are tossed about with little control over what is happening around you. Maybe you don't have anyone to talk to about things that are burdening you or that you are so worried about, and you are not sure what will happen next in your life?

Even in our own safe spaces, we can still feel troubled in our souls. We can try to run away from the troubles, but we are not really at peace. So, what can one do when the worries, stresses and busyness of life start to pile up so much?

Run to our loving God, who is always there with outstretched arms to receive you as you are. Although God is always near, sometimes we get lost in our worries and fix our eyes on our problems rather than on the Creator of the heavens and the earth, the one who loves and cares for us.

Call on God's name, ask him to cover you with his wings and wrap you up in his love. Run to God under whose wings you have come to take refuge and find peace in his presence. There, you can unload all that burdens you with a good chat, giving over to your loving God all that troubles you. Hear his voice as you find refuge in his care, protection and love, under the shadow of his wings. Know that you are loved, that you are safe and that you are home.

Gracious God, when I am afraid of what lies ahead and when I am not sure how to face the challenges of daily life, let me rest under your wings of safety and protection, for you are my rock and my refuge and give me peace. Amen.

Wednesday 5 August 2026

Not in my own strength

by Mark Gierus

‘Get up and eat, for the journey is too much for you.’ ... Strengthened by that food, he travelled ... until he reached Horeb, the mountain of God (1 Kings 19:7b,8b).

Read [1 Kings 19:4-8](#)

Have you been on a holiday recently that you really needed because of work, life pressures and busyness? One where you were able to get right away from the daily routine and stresses and just be?

Perhaps you enjoyed a brilliant new book or finally caught up on the sleep you’d been promising yourself. You may have even given up technology or social media for a while or reconnected with a spouse, family member or friend.

How did you feel when you returned from holiday? Were you refreshed and ready to face life with joy? Or did you wonder whether you had the strength to return to what had caused you stress?

Many of us fall into the trap of working ourselves to burnout – not just physical burnout but spiritual burnout as well. We tell ourselves to keep pushing on, and then we’ll finally reward ourselves with a holiday. Yet sadly, we don’t always get the holiday. Some holidays are not so relaxing either because we are tired, run down and have forgotten the art of relaxing.

In our worries and stress, we find it easy to take a holiday from God but not from that which stresses us. We forget that God loves us and provides for our every need. He seems far away, and we grow weary in work and life.

Elijah had a heavy work schedule and was asked to do some challenging things. Today’s reading shows Elijah so burnt out that he would rather die. After rest, God provides a nourishing meal so he can get up and go again.

We all need a good holiday, but more importantly, we need God, day by day, who gives us strength to sustain us in all we do. Reconnect with God, spending time in his word, and he will renew your strength to face each day.

Loving God, you have called me to follow where you lead for your purpose. Help me always to trust in you, knowing that you strengthen me, not only with the things for my body, but with your precious word for my soul so that I may go where you lead me. Amen.

Thursday 6 August 2026

God does far more than we can ever imagine

by Mark Gierus

For this is what the Lord says: 'They will eat and have some left over' (2 Kings 4:43b)

Read [2 Kings 4:42-44](#)

What is God calling you to do that seems too big, too hard or simply impossible? Many things seem impossible to us, yet nothing is impossible for God.

There was once a man who was asked to build a big boat, kilometres from the nearest ocean or, for that matter, any sort of body of water big enough to float it. Yet he obeyed, and it happened just as God had said it would. This man, of course, was Noah.

There was a man who saw a bush that was burning, yet it didn't burn up, and so he sat there and had a chat with God. Even though this man said, 'Maybe, God, you've got the wrong guy to do what you would like me to do', it happened just as God said it would. This man was Moses, and he led the people out of Egypt through the Red Sea.

We may not part the Red Sea or build a boat in a dry place, but we are called to trust in God's provision, purpose and word, knowing that all things are possible for him.

When it comes to heaven and eternal life, you or I could not find a way there, nor could we make ourselves right in God's sight to earn a place in heaven. We can't save ourselves from our hopelessness in our sinful ways.

It was God who gave us a way, and that way is Jesus Christ. God sent his only Son, Jesus, to suffer and die on the cross so that we might have eternal life and be forgiven and saved from sin, death and the power of the devil.

We are free to follow Jesus as God's children and to trust that God can do all things, knowing that he does what he says he will do. If God calls you to a seemingly impossible task, he will give you what you need to follow him.

Lord, you are amazing, always doing more and giving more than I can ever imagine. Thank you for all you do and for who you are in my life. Help me see day by day the blessings you have given me. Amen.

Friday 7 August 2026

What work should I do?

by Mark Gierus

Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent' (John 6:29).

Read [John 6:25-35](#)

What sort of work pleases God? Have you ever wondered what he requires of us?

We are told over and over again that when it comes to work, we are to do our best, often going above and beyond what is asked of us. Think of students at school or university – work hard and strive to do your best. You may even have been brought up that way, encouraged to finish every job well. But when it comes to working for God, what does he really require of us as his children?

Yes, God wants us to give the work we are called to do our very best, put our hearts into it and carry it out as though we were working for God himself rather than for a boss or system. Yet what is it that God requires of us?

Jesus tells us straight about what work God requires of us. The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.

Serving, loving our neighbour, sharing God's love and telling and living the good news of the gospel – that Jesus died for my sins, in my place so that I might be forgiven and set free – is surely the work of God and what he requires of me, isn't it?

Yes, but the work of God first and foremost is to believe in the one he has sent, his only Son, Jesus. Then, out of faith in Jesus come good works of service, sharing and living out God's love toward others, giving all our work our best effort. This all flows from believing in the one the Father sent – Jesus.

Dear Jesus, you tell us that the work of God is to believe in you. I believe; help me when I doubt and worry to trust that you are the one the Father sent, and you are the one who gives me peace. Amen.

Saturday 8 August 2026

Not just a good season

by Mark Gierus

The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest (Psalm 85:12).

Read [Psalm 85:8-13](#)

In the tropics, you have two seasons: the wet and the dry. In more temperate parts of the world, you have four seasons: summer, autumn, winter and spring.

Wherever you live, you may notice the seasons change, bringing new things, new weather patterns and new temperatures. There are seasons when there are more flowers or fruit, and seasons when vegetable crops are ready for harvest. But who sends the rain? Who sends the sun? Who governs the seasons?

God gives us what is good in every season. You may not enjoy every season, but God continues to give good gifts in them all.

We are funny as humans, aren't we? When it is dry for a little while, we complain because we have to water our lawns and gardens. When it rains, we complain because it is too wet. When it is cold, we are tempted to complain and say we can't wait for the summer. When it is hot, we complain and want it to be cooler. Yet in every season God gives good things.

What season of life are you in right now? Is it a cold, winter-like season, or are you living it up in the spring-summer season of life?

Can you give thanks and be filled with joy in every season of your life? God doesn't change. He is still the loving God who cares for you and continues to provide what is good, no matter what season you are in.

Can you begin each day in the confidence and trust in God and say, 'The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest.'

God is your God in all seasons – in times of harvest and sowing, growth, drought and flooding. He will bring a harvest of love in you as you live in him through every season. God is always present.

Loving Father, you provide so much for us, giving us all good things we need for this life and forever. Let me always be thankful for the gifts you have given, and let me always be willing to share these good gifts with those around me. Amen.

Sunday 9 August 2026

Heaven meets earth

by Pauline Simonsen

Truly you are the Son of God! (Matthew 14:33b)

Read [Matthew 14:22–33](#)

Jesus is mourning the death of his relative John the Baptist, executed by Herod. Jesus has tried to withdraw from the crowds to grieve, but they pursue him, and in his compassion, he tends to them. He feeds 5,000 men (plus women and children!), and when all are satisfied, he dismisses them. Once more he withdraws, sending his disciples off in the boat across the lake, while he goes up into the hills to be alone with his Father.

What happens next reveals Jesus in a different realm than us mortals. After communing with his Father and receiving divine comfort, refreshment and energy, he decides to rejoin his disciples. Being far out on the lake, battling a savage headwind and buffeting waves, doesn't appear to be an issue for Jesus. He walks out to catch them up, striding powerfully through the waves as though walking along a dusty road in Galilee. This Jesus is also the Son of God, Creator Lord of this natural realm.

This is how the disciples encounter him – a pale figure in the darkness striding past them on the water. A phantom?! This extraordinary figure, untroubled by wind, waves and darkness, greets their terror with the words, 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'

For a moment, Peter glimpses the divine realm, his Master's home, and he wants to experience it. When Jesus invites him, Peter climbs out of the boat and walks towards his Creator Lord. What an experience! In Jesus' presence, the divine and mortal realms meet; heaven intersects with earth, and humans walk on water.

It only lasts a moment. Like the pull of gravity, Peter's mortal nature reasserts itself. He sees the waves and feels the wind buffeting him, and he is once more merely human, now sinking into the Sea of Galilee, crying out to his Lord for salvation.

Immediately, Jesus reaches out his hand to catch Peter, to save him and bring him into the boat of safety. 'You of little faith,' he says to Peter, 'why did you doubt?'

Why do we doubt our Lord Jesus when he brings the limitless power of his divine home to our cramped, mortal lives, when his hand alone saves and restores us to the safety of the boat with our fellow travellers?

Lord Jesus, forgive my doubts and fears, and stir my faith to see your true identity as my Saviour Lord and my God. Remind me that one day, your home will be mine as well. Amen.

Pauline lives in sight of the ranges in the beautiful Manawatu region of New Zealand with her husband Roger and their two cats. There, she leads Emmaus Bible College and offers spiritual direction and supervision to people from a wide range of backgrounds and denominations.