

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew Mt 14: 13-21

They all ate and were satisfied.

When Jesus received the news of John the Baptist's death he withdrew by boat to a lonely place where they could be by themselves. But the people heard of this and, leaving the towns, went after him on foot. So as he stepped ashore he saw a large crowd; and he took pity on them and healed their sick.

When evening came, the disciples went to him and said, 'This is a lonely place, and the time has slipped by; so send the people away, and they can go to the villages to buy themselves some food.' Jesus replied, 'There is no need for them to go: give them something to eat yourselves.' But they answered, 'All we have with us is five loaves and two fish.' 'Bring them here to me,' he said. He gave orders that the people were to sit down on the grass; then he took the five loaves and the two fish, raised his eyes to heaven and said the blessing. And breaking the loaves he handed them to his disciples who gave them to the crowds. They all ate as much as they wanted, and they collected the scraps remaining, twelve baskets full. Those who ate numbered about five thousand men, to say nothing of women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Graciously sanctify these gifts, O Lord, we pray, and, accepting the oblation of this spiritual sacrifice, make of us an eternal offering to you.

Through Christ our Lord.

AMEN

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

You have given us, O Lord, bread from heaven, endowed with all delights and sweetness in every taste

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Accompany with constant protection, O Lord, those you renew with these heavenly gifts and, in your never-failing care for them, make them worthy of eternal redemption. Through Christ our Lord.

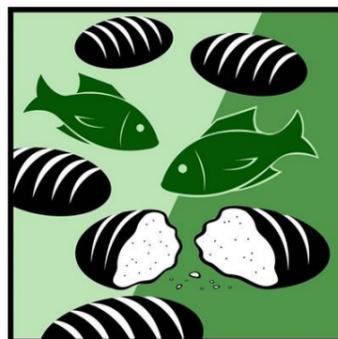
AMEN

REFLECTION

The response of today's psalm is an excellent summary of the theme that runs throughout today's readings: *The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.* The compassion of God is foremost in these readings recognising need within the people and responding with an overflowing abundance. In the gospel, the abundant response of God is the miraculous feeding of more than five thousand people with twelve baskets full of leftovers.

As it became late in the day, the disciples wanted Jesus to send the people away to the nearby villages so that they could buy food for themselves. But Jesus is moved with compassion for the people. He knows that as it is now evening they probably won't be allowed to enter any of the local villages and, even if they were, they probably didn't have money with which to buy food. So it is compassionate care that moves Jesus to act. Remember, he had tried to get away from the crowds to spend some private time mourning the death of John the Baptist. He was entitled to be frustrated and angry with them for intruding on his grief. Instead, when they tracked him down, he went ashore and healed them and taught them. When it came to the evening he went one step further in his compassion and made sure that all were fed.

At the time of writing, the gospel writer knew that his audience would be familiar with the Eucharistic meal. The words and actions of Jesus in this miraculous feeding event foreshadow the events of the Last Supper: he *took* the bread and fish, *gave thanks*, *broke* the bread, and *gave* it to the disciples to distribute. This event is a Eucharistic one just as much as the Last Supper.



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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

2ND AUGUST 2020

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay.

COLLECT

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

AMEN

FIRST READING

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 55:1-3

Hasten and eat

Thus says the Lord: Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty; though you have no money, come!

Buy corn without money, and eat, and, at no cost, wine and milk.

Why spend money on what is not bread, your wages on what fails to satisfy?

Listen, listen to me and you will have good things to eat and rich food to enjoy.

Pay attention, come to me; listen, and your soul will live.

With you I will make an everlasting covenant out of the favours promised to David has had and none will have after you.'

The word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

The hand of the Lord feeds us: he answers all our needs.

1. The Lord is kind and full of compassion, slow to anger, abounding in love. How good is the Lord to all, compassionate to all his creatures. (R.)
2. The eyes of all creatures look to you and you give them their food in due time. You open wide your hand, grant the desires of all who live. (R.)
3. The Lord is just in all his ways and loving in all his deeds. He is close to all who call him, call on him from their hearts. (R.)

SECOND READING

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans Rom 8: 35-37,39

No creature can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ

Nothing can come between us and the love of Christ, even if we are troubled or worried, or being persecuted, or lacking food or clothes, or being threatened or even attacked. These are the trials through which we triumph, by the power of him who loved us.

For I am certain of this: neither death nor life, no angel, no prince, nothing that exists, nothing still to come, not any power, or height or depth, nor any created thing, can ever come between us and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

No one lives on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God Alleluia!