

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.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

PROFESSION OF FAITH APOSTLES’ CREED

Or the Nicene Creed may be said.

I believe in God, / the Father almighty, / Creator of heaven and earth, / and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, / who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, / born of the Virgin Mary, / suffered under Pontius Pilate, / was crucified, died and was buried; / he descended into hell; / on the third day he rose again from the dead; / he ascended into heaven, / and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; / from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. / I believe in the Holy Spirit, / the holy catholic Church, / the communion of saints, / the forgiveness of sins, / the resurrection of the body, / and life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

After the priest raises the paten with the bread and prays, and then the chalice, we respond to each prayer:

R. Blessed be God for ever.
P. Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters), that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.
R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

P. 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.
R. Amen.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Lift up your hearts.
R. We lift them up to the Lord.
P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
R. It is right and just.

PREFACE I-VIII OF THE SUNDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME

After the Preface, we sing or say:

All: Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P. The Mystery of Faith.
All: We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

COMMUNION RITE

P. At the Saviour’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father, who art in heaven ...
P. Deliver us, Lord, we pray...
All: For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.
P. Lord Jesus Christ, who said...
R. Amen.
P. The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.
P. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.
All exchange a sign of peace.

LAMB OF GOD

All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON Wis 16:20

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P. 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.
R. Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. Go forth, the Mass is ended.
R. Thanks be to God.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL

‘YOU GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT’

The disciples function rather like a modern celebrity’s ‘minders’. When Jesus has finished healing the sick, they urge him to send the crowd away to buy food for themselves before nightfall.

Jesus reacts to the word ‘buy’. He will not send people away to buy anything – nor should the disciples. When they point out with astonishment that they barely have enough for themselves (five loaves and two fish), Jesus, acting the part of divine Wisdom who speaks in the First Reading (Isa 55:1-3), *freely* provides more than enough food for the whole multitude.

His gestures in doing so – taking the loaves, blessing, breaking and giving them – clearly foreshadows the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper (Matt 26:26). To participate in the Eucharist is to experience the same divine hospitality so lavishly provided by Jesus.

The miraculous feeding and the Eucharist which it foreshadows bring out that the essence of what God wants to do for us is simply be a most generous Host at the banquet of eternal life. At the same time, since it depicts people being fed with real food, it bears directly, in a sacramental sense, upon the problem of world hunger. The Lord who took pity on the large crowd, looks with similar eyes upon our world and instructs us, as he instructed his disciples, ‘Give them something to eat yourselves’. In the words of the Venerable Pedro Arrupe (former Jesuit General): ‘The Eucharist will never be complete so long as people still go hungry in our world’.

BRENDAN BYRNE, SJ

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OUR SUNDAY CELEBRATION

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME / A

02 AUGUST 2020

‘GIVE THEM SOMETHING TO EAT YOURSELVES.’ With the five loaves and two fish that Jesus had blessed, the disciples fed a vast crowd. Our acts of service and love towards others may often seem small but, blessed by Jesus, they too can have a great impact. We need Jesus to bless our work, and Jesus needs us to feed the hungry and comfort the lonely of our world. Together, we can do great things.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON Ps 69:2, 6
O God, come to my assistance; O Lord, make haste to help me! You are my rescuer, my help; O Lord, do not delay.

GREETING

P. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
R. Amen.
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

P. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
P. Lord Jesus, you are the image of the unseen God: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. You are the first born of all creation: Christ, have mercy.
R. Christ, have mercy.
P. You are the head of the body, the Church: Lord, have mercy.
R. Lord, have mercy.
P. May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
R. Amen.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest, / and on earth peace to people of good will. / We praise you, / we bless you, / we adore you, / we glorify you, / we give you thanks for your great glory, / Lord God, heavenly King, / O God, almighty Father. / Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, / Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, / you take away the sins of the world, / have mercy on us; / you take away the sins of the world, / receive our prayer; / you are seated at the right hand of the Father, / have mercy on us. / For you alone are the Holy One, / you alone are the Lord, / you alone are the Most High, / Jesus Christ, / with the Holy Spirit, / in the glory of God the Father. / Amen.

COLLECT

P. 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.
R. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Isa 55:1-3
A reading from the prophet Isaiah
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.

The word of the Lord.
R. Thanks be to God.

RESP PSALM Ps 144:8-9, 15-18. R. v. 16
R. 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 Rom 8:35, 37-39
A reading from the letter of St Paul to the Romans
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.
R. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Mt 4:4
Alleluia, alleluia! / No one lives on bread alone, / but on every word that comes from the mouth of God. / Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mt 14:13-21
P. The Lord be with you.
R. And with your spirit.
P. A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.
R. Glory to you, O Lord.
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.