

Suggested Opening Song: We Come to Your Feast, #168

Jesus takes us outside again today, to a deserted place where thousands of people followed him. Despite having only five loaves and two fish, Jesus is able to feed the entire crowd. We gather here every Sunday, a crowd perhaps only in the dozens or hundreds, but where we can all be fed, now with Jesus' own body, offered and multiplied to satisfy us all. We can imagine that we are here with Jesus as he speaks to us and feeds us as he did on that wonderful day, for indeed this is what he does.

As we gather let us begin our service by professing what we believe.

Profession of Faith p. 142

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (bow as we say) and by the Holy Spirit he was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Introductory Rite:

Greeting:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God forever. **Blessed be God forever.**

Penitential Rite: p. 10

Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to participate in this sacred celebration.

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Opening Prayer:

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 and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Word:

First Reading p. 56

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 55:1-3

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy? Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to GodResponsorial Psalm*Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16*

R/. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

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You, O LORD, are good and forgiving, abounding in kindness to all who call upon you.
Hearken, O LORD, to my prayer and attend to the sound of my pleading. **R/.**

All the nations you have made shall come and worship you, O LORD,
and glorify your name. For you are great, and you do wondrous deeds; you alone are God. **R/.**

You, O LORD, are a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in kindness and fidelity.
Turn toward me, and have pity on me; give your strength to your servant. **R/.**

Second Reading

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Romans 8:35,37-39

Brothers and sisters: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword? No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that death, not life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.Gospel*Matthew 14:13-21*

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Glory to you, Lord

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over— twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection on the Word:

- We all have times when we feel the need to be alone. We may be depressed, or grouchy, or overwhelmed, or just plain tired. In the Gospel today, Jesus was grieving when he sought a deserted spot to be by himself. But when seeing the crowds following him, “his heart was moved with pity for them” (Matthew 14:14). The Greek word Matthew uses is perhaps closer in meaning to guts; either way, this implies that the feeling comes from deep inside him and is as physical as mental. This visceral feeling drives Jesus to change his plans, teach the vast number of pilgrims, cure those who were sick, and, his heart still moved with pity, feed the entire crowd. Let us pray that when we see others in need even when we wish to be left alone, our hearts will be moved to help, and in our gut we will know we should reach out.
- Easily overlooked in the account of the feeding of the multitudes is that no distinctions are made among the people in the crowd. No division is made between those who believed and those who just tagged along, between those who had plenty of food back home and those who often went hungry, between those who were Jewish and those who were not, between the disciples themselves and the crowd, or among men, women, and children: “they all ate and were satisfied” (Matthew 14:20). Jesus did not separate the people by religion or baptism or race or ethnicity or immigration status or criminality or age or gender or any other criteria, nor did he discriminate in any way. All were seated. All were served. All were satisfied.
- Jesus’ non-discriminatory generosity mirrors the Father’s abundant generosity, which is celebrated in the responsorial psalm. Jesus models that generosity every time he dines with a Roman collaborator (as tax collectors were stereotyped), forgives an adulterer, befriends a prostitute, or eats with sinners. After all, he was sent in order to save sinners. All sinners. In fact, the first person to follow him into the kingdom of God was a criminal: the thief who was crucified alongside him.

Question of the Week

How can I feed others this week without discriminating, literally or figuratively?

Prayer of the Faithful:

The Lord’s hands feed us, answering all our needs, and so we call to mind our needs and the needs of our sisters and brothers, so we may place them in the Lord’s hands.

- For the Church, that we may find ways to multiply the charity we provide, so that all who hunger are fed, and all who are in need will be satisfied, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- That the fresh water around the world in lakes and rivers and streams may be made and kept clean and uncontaminated, so that all who are thirsty may come to the water and have plenty to drink, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For all who are thirsting for justice and peace, that they may be satisfied, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For those traveling during the summer months, that they may return refreshed and rejuvenated, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For our community, that we may be moved to help our neighbors in need of food, clothing, housing, or welcome, so that through us the Lord may answer their prayers, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**
- For what else should we pray? Let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

- For all the prayers that we hold in the silence of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Generous God, you are near to all who call upon you, gracious, merciful, and good to all. May our hands multiply your generosity, bringing plenty to those with little. Hear this and all our prayers, through the one who multiplied the loaves and fishes, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Communion Rite

The Lord's Prayer: p. 176

Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Rite of Peace:

The sign of peace outwardly expresses a deep spiritual reality; through this sign we acknowledge Christ's presence in each other and share the peace we have received from Him. Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

Communion:

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.

Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The body of Christ. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion:

Accompany with constant protections, 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.**

Concluding Rite:

Final Blessing:

May the Lord bless us, ☩ protect us from all evil and lead us to everlasting life. **Amen**

Go in peace! **Thanks be to God.**

Suggested Closing Song: Taste and See, #174