

Your Lourdes Sunday Liturgy at Home

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2, 2020

“You who have no money, come, receive...”

Isaiah 55:1

God does not desire hunger. Today’s readings show us our God’s compassion for those who hunger and thirst. Jesus makes those who have followed him his “companions” – a word which means “those with whom bread is shared.” And God is inviting us to do the same: to share our bread and in so doing make the poor, and indeed every person, our companions on the way to that heavenly banquet. That’s what Jesus asks the disciples to do in this week’s Gospel, and after they had distributed the bread, an abundance was left over.

This miracle of feeding has echoes of the Eucharist. The four actions of the Eucharist are there: Jesus took the bread, blessed it, broke it and gave it to his disciples to distribute. How it all happens is mysterious, but it happens nonetheless.

In our reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah, God issues an urgent invitation to come:

- come to the water....
- come, receive grain and eat...
- come without price....
- come to me heedfully....

And this free banquet has rich food and drink. For many people in our world today, that vision seems far off. Ask the folks in Flint, Michigan and on the Navajo lands in the Southwest how impossible clean water sounds. Talk with the people in urban food deserts about living on a diet of junk food and cold cuts from the bodega. Speak with the poor of the world who endure droughts and famine or live on parched land downstream from a new dam. For them, “come to the water” is a pipedream.

In a sermon on the feeding of the vast crowd in a deserted place, the late Harvard University Chaplain Peter Gomes insisted that the message of this miracle is clear: It is not the will of God that people

should go hungry (*Sermons: Biblical Wisdom For Daily Living*, William Morrow and Co., New York: 1998). This miracle is repeated six times in the four Gospels – the only miracle appearing in all of them:

- Mark 14:13-21 & 8:1-10
- Matthew 14:13-21 & 15:32-39
- Luke 9:10-17
- John 6:1-15

This feeding of the multitude attests to the fact that Jesus met people's real needs. He fed the hungry, said Gomes, not with metaphors but with food, not with resolutions and presidential commissions but with so much bread and fish that there was an abundance left over. Jesus met their physical needs in a generous manner so that, with their physical hunger satisfied, he could then address the hunger of their hearts. Through his action, Jesus acknowledged that there is a real connection between the hunger of the body and the hunger of the soul. Both the physical and spiritual needs of humankind are God's concern.

Jesus' action and his generosity were reminiscent of several similar events concerning food that are preserved in the Hebrew Scriptures. One of those is featured in today's first reading, where Deutero-Isaiah, speaking for God, invites the poor to come, eat, drink and be satisfied. Only after their physical hunger has been addressed does the Lord invite: "Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David." Not the least among those benefits was the promise of God's protective presence, forever.

Our Epistle today is a familiar passage from Letter to the Romans (8:35, 37-39) that families select frequently for funerals. Paul asks the question: "What will separate us from the love of Christ?" and lists a string of possibilities. And the answer is: "Nothing!"

Prelude: Listen to "God Is" (1979) by James Cleveland & the Southern California Community Choir:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jDOsbYzeKsk>

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Leader: In the name of the Father, † and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Assembly: *Amen*

Leader: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and
the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL ACT

Lord Jesus, you nourish us with your word:

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you feed us with your own body:

Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you call us to proclaim your word and share our bread:

Lord, have mercy.

Opening Prayer

Bountiful and compassionate God,
you place in the hands of your disciples the food of life.
Nourish us at your holy table,
that we may bear Christ to others
and share with them the gifts
we have so richly received.

We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God forever and ever.

LET THE CHURCH SAY.....AMEN!

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A
August 2, 2020

1st Reading – Isaiah 55:1-3

¹ 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!

² 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.

³ 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 God.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18

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

⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful,^{[L][SEP]}

slow to anger and of great kindness.^{[L][SEP]}

⁹ The LORD is good to all^{[L][SEP]}

and compassionate toward all his works.^{[L][SEP]}

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

¹⁵ The eyes of all look hopefully to you,^{[L][SEP]}

and you give them their food in due season;^{[L][SEP]}

¹⁶ you open your hand^{[L][SEP]}and

satisfy the desire of every living thing.^{[L][SEP]}

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

¹⁷ The LORD is just in all his ways^{[L][SEP]}

and holy in all his works.^{[L][SEP]}

¹⁸ The LORD is near to all who call upon him,^{[L][SEP]}

to all who call upon him in truth.^{[L][SEP]}

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

2nd Reading – Romans 8:35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters:^[L]_[SEP]³⁵ What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

³⁷ No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us.

³⁸ For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers,³⁹ 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.

Alleluia – Matthew 4:4B

R. Alleluia, alleluia.^[L]_[SEP]

^{4B} One does not live on bread alone,^[L]_[SEP]

but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.^[L]_[SEP]

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel – Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

¹⁵ 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.”

¹⁶ Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.”

¹⁷ But they said to him, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.”

¹⁸ Then he said, “Bring them here to me, ”

¹⁹ 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.

²⁰ They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over twelve wicker baskets full.²¹ 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 Prompts:

Before you begin, listen to Kathleen J. Bertrand singing “If I Can Help Somebody” during John Lewis' funeral.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSSIOFjxEJs>

In our Gospel today, Jesus had just learned of John the Baptist's execution by King Herod, and he withdrew on a boat to a deserted place to pray. When he was spotted by “the vast crowd,” Jesus could've said, “Go away, I'm busy praying.” But instead, he was moved with pity for them and cured their sick. Ministry oft times happens in the interruptions, not by appointment – the inconvenient doorbell or the phone call can be transformed into a holy encounter.

1. Have you ever abandoned your plans and helped somebody?
2. Meals have great importance in Scripture. Have you had such a Godly feast?
3. How do our Eucharistic celebrations impel us to act for just global food distribution?

Meditation suggestion

Ask Jesus to share his compassionate heart with you. Imagine that the gift was received and envision yourself using that heart. Sit with that image for a few minutes. Then move into this week's intercessions.

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS – August 2, 2020

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Presider: My friends, let us join together to pray for the feeding of the world's hungry and for those who are trying to find ways to share their abundance.

Worship Leader

1. For Christians everywhere who preach the Gospel, who advocate for those with no voice, who feed the hungry and heal the sick, and who

teach, counsel and guide those who are seeking God. We pray:
Renew us, O God. (ASSEMBLY RESPONDS: **Renew us, O God.**)

2. For a new generation of leaders to rise up and extend the life's work of John Lewis and C.T. Vivian to liberate our nation from its original sin of racism. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
3. For the Dreamers who came to this country as children to find way to remain with us and contribute their talents to our mutual future. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
4. For peace in the world, especially the Middle East, and in our cities. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
5. For researchers and public health personnel as they seek effective vaccines and medications for COVID-19. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
6. For our Stephen Ministry, its leaders, and all Care Team members and receivers here at Lourdes. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
7. For an end to the Death Penalty and Human Trafficking, especially in Georgia. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
8. For all our loved ones in the military and their families, that they be returned to us safely and experience a welcoming community. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
9. For all those whose unemployment payments have expired, that they will be able to avoid homelessness, hunger and despair. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
10. For all those who are separated from us by infirmity, especially those listed in our bulletin, and for all those living with HIV and AIDS, that they know our community's care for them. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**
11. For all the dead, that they see God face to face, especially Brigitte Synsmir and George E. Williams for whom this Mass is being celebrated. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**

12. Please share any intention you have [PAUSE.....] as well as all our own needs. We pray: **Renew us, O God.**

Presider: Loving God, you continue to provide for us every day. Help us to trust in your unfailing love and live generously without fear. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. LET THE CHURCH SAY – AMEN!

Then sing or recite The Lord’s Prayer.

Listen to the L.A. Mass Choir sing “Only What You Do For Christ Will Last”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGFuUMYNvL4>

Closing Prayer

Lord,^{{}{}{}}
surround with your constant protection^{{}{}{}}
the people you renew,^{{}{}{}}
and in your never-failing care for us^{{}{}{}}
make us worthy of eternal redemption.^{{}{}{}}
We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Let the Church say.....AMEN!

Sing along with Shirley Caesar the hymn “Go.”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rA5d836aYyg>