

# Read

Isaiah 55:1-3

Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16,  
17-18

Romans 8:35, 37-39

Matthew 14:13-21

## LIVING THE WORD

### Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2, 2020



#### REFLECTION

For the last few weeks we have encountered Jesus' parables in the Sunday Gospel accounts. Today, though, we hear perhaps the most known of all Jesus' miracles—the feeding of the five thousand. This miracle shows the great power of God, living and active in the world. The impossible becomes possible, and thousands of people are fed by the hand of the Lord.

Note, however, how Jesus responds when the disciples tell Jesus to dismiss the crowds. Worried that people were getting hungry, the disciples thought the best course of action would be to tell everyone to go home and eat. This was not an unreasonable idea, as there were thousands of people and just a few loaves of bread and fish to go around. The disciples must have been shocked when they heard Jesus respond, "Give them some food yourselves" (Matthew 14:16).

Jesus' instruction to the disciples that day is an important command for all of us. When we see a need, we must work to meet the need. While it might be easier to ignore, or even push the responsibility to someone else, Jesus' response is clear. If you encounter someone who is hungry, give that person some food. If you encounter someone who is naked, give that person clothes to wear. If you encounter someone who is sad, offer them love and encouragement. Jesus reminds us that we have the power and responsibility to serve others.



#### ACTION

Today's Gospel is filled with Eucharistic imagery. Jesus feeds the crowds, just as Christ feeds us with his Body and Blood. However, we must also remember that a central aspect of Eucharist is being Christ for others. In the words of St. Augustine, we are called to become what we receive. Take some time after you receive Christ in the Eucharist to ask him how he is calling you to serve others. In what ways does Christ call you to go and feed them yourself?



#### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ What do you think it was like to experience this miraculous feeding of more than five thousand people? Imagine that you were among the people in the crowd. How did you feel as you ate and were filled?
- ❖ Does anything scare you about being Christ for others? Why?

