

BRIDGES to the Good News

Sunday Summary

John 6:24-35

Today's gospel passage is the preface to the bread-of-life discourse. Jesus charges the crowd with having responded only to the material meaning of the feeding of the 5,000, not to its spiritual significance.

They answer by picking up the theme of works, asking what the works are that God desires them to do (3:21). The reply is that there is only one work that God desires to accomplish in them, obedient trust in Jesus.

The crowd requests a sign from him to validate his teaching so that they may "believe" (rather than "believe in") him. Jesus answers that their desire has already been fulfilled. Jesus' teaching is the bread they should crave. The bread God gives in the present is "that which comes down from heaven" (v. 33), the revelation of God made personal in the incarnation of Jesus.

Weekly Reflection

The Johannine version of the of the feeding of the 5,000 is followed by a discourse between Jesus and the crowd. The people asked Jesus, "What must we do to perform the works of God?" The work of God in Judaism meant a practical list of deeds and duties.

Jesus' answer to this question is hardly in accordance with tradition. Therefore, the people ask for a sign that they might believe such an astonishingly simple explanation of God's work. After all, they say, "Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness." Then Jesus interprets for them the spiritual meaning of the physical sign of manna.

Jesus alludes to his own life, come down from heaven, which feeds the world and preserves life forever. With no understanding, the people plead, "give us this bread always." With perhaps a degree of understanding, we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." We are not praying merely for physical necessities. We are also praying for that daily bread of divine encounter with Christ, who brings us into eternal life. Without him, we perish from hunger and thirst in the wilderness.



Food for Thought

- ❖ What "food that perishes" do we labor for as individuals? as a Church?

Food for Thought

- ❖ How do we show distrust and disobedience to God as individuals? as a Church?

Bridges for Tridgers

Recipe for Awareness

Begin with a moment of centering silence and quiet reflection, setting aside the concerns and agenda of the day.



① We come to an awareness of God's presence in our family.

"Dear God, who is present with our family now, and at all times and in all ways..."

Continue with:

② We express our gratitude for today's gifts from God.

*"Today I give thanks for..." or,
"Today, I am grateful for..."*

Pause again for another moment of centering silence and quiet reflection.

③ We come to an awareness of God's presence in our own experience.

*Silently contemplate the question:
"When have I acted from love?"*

*Silently contemplate the question:
"When have I acted from fear?"*

Based on your contemplation, create your intention to move forward as an expression of God's Love.

④ We plan and move forward with God.

"God, help me to manifest your presence today by..."



Suggestions for Families

Put an empty breadbasket on the family dining table. Place a pad of blank paper and pencils, pens or markers near the basket. Invite each family member to put in one piece of paper daily this week with a sample of writing or a drawing that shows a way God has met the needs of individual family members or of the family as a whole. Use these writings and drawings at meal times this week, offering thanksgivings for each act of God's providence shown. Draw one item at a time, share it around the group. Invite clarification or expansion, if necessary, but don't put anyone "on the spot." Form the sharing into the beginning of a prayer starter: "Dear God, who has brought us together each day, helped us to stay warm and fed..."

Invitations to Community

- How are we answering the call to "tell the coming generation" of the community's tradition of faith. Who is carrying out this ministry within our church? How are our religious educators supported by our faith community? Pray for the Christian education program, that it may find strength to fulfill its mission.
- God longs to feed us. What manna of God's providence have we eaten this year? To what generosity of God can we bear witness? Pray for a renewal of gratitude in our hearts for the mighty works of God.

Prayer Starter

Thank you, Jesus, for meeting me in the sacrament of your Body and Blood...

