

REFLECTION: I remember a time I was ready for change in my life.... I remember... I remember...

OUR FATHER

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.
R. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

SIGN OF PEACE

Jesus, you said to your apostles: “I leave you peace, my peace I give you. Look not on our sins, but on the faith of your Church, and grant us the peace and unity of your kingdom where you live forever and ever. **Amen.**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
R. And with your spirit.

LAMB OF GOD

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.**

This is Jesus, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray:
Lord,
Even amidst all the injustice of the world, you feed us with the bread of life. Help us to share that bread with others so we might realize your kingdom even in a world as unjust ours.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. **R. Amen.**

Bread for the Hungry

WISDOM FROM THE CELLS

For a long time, I refused to believe that such thing as a God or Higher Power existed. I would see all the hate and tragedies in the news on TV that happened in the world on a daily basis and I would ask myself, “How can a loving Father/ God allow such things to happen?”
After I made the best decision of my life, I met Father Mike, the rest of the JRJI members and Scott. It was then that I began questioning myself, “Could I be wrong about God? Why do all these people that don’t even know me have faith in me? Why do they care about me?” The only answer I could come up with was, “It has to be God’s love.”
I was able to see God’s love through them, who work so hard unselfishly and dedicate so much part of your life into helping those that to a lot of people society and righteously so consider “trash, animals, or evil” because of the crimes we’ve committed. That’s exactly what we are. But we weren’t born like this; we turned into or became “trash, animals, or evil” due to events, lack of love, understanding, and attention, or in some cases abuse that we experience in our childhood. By no means is it a justification to our crimes, but it’s a reality that can’t be ignored. We’re not lost cases that can’t be helped like a lot of people think or tell themselves to wash their hands off us. We’re all grown men, but in a lot of ways we still need love, reassurance that people care and believe in us. You’d be amazed what a little dose of love could do to a human being.

-Erik, who is in a California State Prison.

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Cycle B | July 28, 2024



“Loaves and Fishes” by John Swanson

PENITENTIAL RITE

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

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray:
God our Father,
You give your children everywhere all the good gifts for a fully human life. Let your Son give us the bread of his word that nourishes our faith, of his peace that brings us rest, of his consolation that gives us hope and joy, and the nourishing bread that sustains us on the way to you.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
R. Amen.



LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading: 2 Kings 4:42-44

A man came from Baal-shalishah bringing to Elisha, the man of God, twenty barley loaves made from the firstfruits, and fresh grain in the ear. Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat." But his servant objected, "How can I set this before a hundred people?" Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat." "For thus says the LORD, "They shall eat and there shall be some left over.'" And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the LORD had said.

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

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 145: 10-11, 15-16, 17-18

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

Let all your works give you thanks, O LORD,
and let your faithful ones bless you.
Let them discourse of the glory of your kingdom
and speak of your might.

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

The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season;
you open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

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

The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.
The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

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

Second Reading: Ephesians 4: 1-6

Brothers and sisters: I, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit, as you were also called to the one hope of your call; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

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

Gospel: John 6: 1-15

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee. A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people recline." Now there was a great deal of grass in that place. So the men reclined, about five thousand in number. Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted." So they collected them, and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves that had been more than they could eat. When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, "This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world." Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

The Gospel of the Lord.
R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

MEDITATION: BREAD OF LIFE

david was sitting
in the shade
for three days
he and his friends
had been here
listening to jesus
what had brought him

some had only
stayed briefly
because of the heat
the sleeping conditions
the lack of food

david was glad
he had packed
enough food
for his group

last night
around the fire
david and his friends
spoke about what
jesus had preached
and about how
it moved them

jesus had something
different to say
it seemed as if
david had waited
all his life
to meet Jesus

today it was hot
and the storm clouds
gathered

david's two friends
had been locked up

by the romans
for six years

the storm
fascinated them
after not feeling
the rain for so long
it was refreshing

to be soaked by it
later they spoke
about what they
had experienced

While being
locked up
for two hours
david did not
say a word
he listened to stories
about the conditions
they had lived in

they lived like
caged animals

passion stirred
in their conversation
and even after
the dark clouds
showered rain
and put out the fire
they continued
speaking about
their country
about its injustices
the empire was cruel

that was when
jesus joined them

at first the group
was intimidated
but they quickly
continued their
conversation
and jesus listened

the anger flowed
strongly around the
dark clouds of
this empire

the suffering
it caused
the unjust wars
the loss of human life

as we spoke
of how powerless
we had felt
during these years
those in the group
grew to easily
understand why
some of their friends
had joined the zealots
but Jesus had a
different message
about what power is

jesus
that is why we are
drawn to you
you are different
from the other
religious leaders
you give us hope
when it feels like

there is none
you feel what we feel
when you speak
you bring god
into our reality
and we feel as if god
is part of our struggles
and part of our lives
none of our leaders
speak out
against the cruelty
the brutality of
the romans

you speak of bread
of the hunger and
starvation of
so many across
the country while
others in the city
dine so lavishly
and have more
than enough food

jesus said
i am the bread
many of those
who are well-fed are
actually starving
because the bread
they eat is not
truly life-giving
i offer this bread to you
so that you may eat it
and give it to others
so that they can
have life

