

Isaiah 55:1-3

Psalm 145

Romans 8:35,37-39

Matt 14:13-21

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Now when Jesus heard that Herod had beheaded John the Baptist, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me."

Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

This Gospel is an example of how
the Old and New Testaments of the Bible
are so closely interconnected.

As it is written in the Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation
also known as Dei Verbum (Chapter 4, Section 16),

*"God, the inspirer and author of both Testaments,
wisely arranged that the New Testament is hidden in the Old,
and the Old Testament is fulfilled in the New".*

https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651118_dei-verbum_en.html

Let's see how interwoven they are...

The Gospel echoes events of the Old Testament.

The book of Exodus, chapter 16, tells us about God providing for the Israelites in the desert by raining bread from heaven for them.

The book of Numbers, chapter 11, tells us of another time when God provided, *"When the dew fell on the camp in the night, the manna would fall with it."*

In the wilderness of the Sinai desert, God fed his people constantly and also with his Word. Jesus, also fed the people with his Word.

Jesus also gave them the nourishment for their Body, just as God did in the wilderness when He gave them manna from heaven.

Jesus went beyond the bread and the manna and gave HIMSELF to his people.

As noted in the Gospel of John, chapter 6,

Jesus said,

"I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

Whoever eats of this bread will live forever."

This miracle of the multiplication of the five loaves and two fish is an example of how God cares for us.

His compassion for us.

His compassion that leads to the healing of the body and the soul, and the gathering of all the broken pieces of our lives.

God wants to fill and heal us in this Eucharist,
and in the banquet that awaits us in the halls of heaven!

Another insight of God's feeding is his generosity.

There is more than enough for everyone!

If you can imagine during the feeding of the people,
there most likely was no pushing or shoving,
or other signs of discourtesy.

Most likely there was a peaceful sense of order and decorum
that was observed in the presence of the Lord.

When the Lord is present and his presence means everything to us,
when he is enthroned in his rightful place,
ALL ELSE FALLS INTO PLACE.

When Jesus becomes the center of our focus and lives,
we will not lack for any good gift,
FOR EVERY NEED WILL BE MET BY THE LORD,
WHO CARES FOR US.