

The Eight Sunday after Pentecost

Matthew 14:14-22

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and He healed their sick. And when it was evening, His disciples came to Him, saying, This is a desert place, and the time is now past; send the multitude away, that they may go into the villages, and buy themselves victuals. But Jesus said unto them, They need not depart; give ye them to eat. And they say unto Him, We have here but five loaves, and two fishes. He said, Bring them hither to Me. And He commanded the multitude to sit down on the grass, and took the five loaves, and the two fishes, and looking up to heaven, He blessed, and brake, and gave the loaves to His disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they did all eat, and were filled: and they took up of the fragments that remained twelve baskets full. And they that had eaten were about five thousand men, beside women and children. And straightway Jesus constrained His disciples to get into a ship, and to go before Him unto the other side, while He sent the multitudes away. (KJV)

The present Gospel verifies the Lord Jesus Christ's compassion and power to heal the sick. Individual's doubting the love, power and compassion of Jesus Christ will find hope and reassurance in today's Gospel.

The current Gospel describes Jesus's ability to address the hunger of the multitudes. Jesus fed the great number of people present. The Lord did not turn the multitude away to seek food elsewhere.

Individuals seeking nourishment for the soul will always find the necessary and authentic food for the soul in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ has fed hungry souls in every century.

The Holy Gospel is food for the soul. The Holy Gospel feeds the soul of every person capable of hearing the Gospel and open to the message. The Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ are always available in God's Holy Church.

As long as the Divine Liturgy is served and wherever the Divine Liturgy is served, believers are able to partake of Jesus' Precious Body and Blood. The Lord Jesus Christ is always ready to feed the hunger in the soul.

Individuals need not turn elsewhere to look for authentic nourishment. Believers need not settle for food for the soul that will not satisfy the deepest hunger. Jesus Christ satisfies the depths of the soul.

Jesus Christ provides nourishment for the multitudes in His Holy Church. Jesus ensures the Church will stand until His Glorious Second Coming. The Church prevails in the most difficult of times and against the strongest assaults.

Believers find comfort, hope and protection in the Church. Believers experience God's unending and immeasurable love in the Church. The Church is where to remain firmly united with Jesus Christ.

Jesus taught His disciples of His power to feed the hungry. Jesus demonstrated His love for the multitude that came to Him. The Epistle to the Hebrews states: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (Heb.13:8)

Each person can draw near to the Lord Jesus Christ with confidence. Jesus is present in the Church at all times to address the hunger in the soul. Jesus is ready to help each believer to address personal concerns, problems and afflictions.

Jesus Christ's teachings in the Church enable believers to put personal concerns into manageable perspectives. Wisdom for life through the ages is available in God's Holy Church.

Attentive believers coming to church learn valuable lessons for life from the holy prophets, the saints and martyrs. God provides the Church for humans seeking peace and salvation of the soul.

In this tumultuous world, individuals face difficult choices and unsettling circumstances. The Church offers the steady and reassuring presence of the Lord Jesus Christ to guide believers to the heavenly Kingdom and eternal life.

Serious believers look to the Holy Gospel for nourishment. Serious believers value partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ. Repentance is necessary and best practiced throughout life.

The Lord Jesus Christ enables believers to always begin anew. When believers partake of nourishment from Christ, newness in life begins. The multitude fed by Jesus in the present Gospel had a new vision of Christ and a renewed vision for life.

When believers incorporate the message of the Gospel into daily life and partake of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ, newness in Christ occurs. New beginnings in Jesus Christ are possible at every moment of life.

Repentance is possible throughout life. The multitudes fed in the current Gospel had reason to cast behind them the old ways of life. Jesus proved His divinity beyond a reasonable doubt when He fed the multitude with five loaves and two fish.

After feeding the hungry present with the five loaves and two fish, twelve baskets of fragments remained. At each Divine Liturgy throughout the world, every person present is able to be fed with the Gospel and the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ feeds multitudes in every century and in locations throughout the world. Maintaining hope in Jesus Christ is always possible and necessary.

Christ's love is verified in the celebration of the Divine Liturgy. Christ's nourishment is always available for the hungry. Seek peace for the soul within the Church.

Seek the satisfying love of Christ within the Church. Benefit from the wisdom of the ages. Learn from believers in centuries past. Follow the narrow path to the Heavenly Kingdom.

Be grateful for the founders and benefactors of parish churches and monasteries. Give thanks to the Lord God for always being present through the ages. Repent and begin anew in Jesus Christ throughout life.

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost. Transfer of the Relics of Archdeacon Stephen. August 2, 15, 2021. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania. Father Rodney Torbic