

The Eighth 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)

God's Holy Church is safe and secure for believers seeking the salvation of their souls. Believers are blessed to hear the Gospel and receive the Precious Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Church has sufficient nourishment for the hearts, minds and souls of all entering. Jesus demonstrated in the current Gospel His ability to feed the multitudes. Jesus always is sufficient for the hungry of heart, mind and soul.

Believers seeking peace of mind do well to enter God's Holy Church with anticipation. Readiness in the heart, mind and soul makes a difference in welcoming the Lord God into daily life.

Daily life structured in the Lord God enables the believer to travel the narrow path to God's Heavenly Kingdom and eternal life. Life centered in the Lord God strives to avoid sin.

Believers rooting their lives in the Lord quickly repent when they fall into sin. Repentance restores unity with the Lord. God is ever-present to welcome the repentant believer. (Mt. 9:13)

The Gospel is proclaimed at each Divine Liturgy to nourish, strengthen and guide believers. Believers attentive to the Gospel strive to incorporate the message into daily life.

The Church is a place for learning the Christian way of life. Learning in Christ is an expectation throughout earthly life. Growing in Christ is possible and unlimited for believers desiring to grow.

Stagnancy has no place in the Christian life. Jesus is ever-present to facilitate the believer's growth. Jesus is within reach of each believer reaching out in prayer. Growth in Christ is limited by the commitment of the believer.

Strong faith in Christ leads to unlimited growth. Adhering to Christ's teachings opens possibilities in life for joyful growth. The life filled with the Spirit of God brings joy to the heart, mind and soul.

Worshipping in God's Holy Church facilitates transforming the believer. Being attentive to the Gospel changes the believer's life. The believer unites with Christ when partaking of the Precious Body and Blood of Christ.

Jesus was not deterred when the five thousand needed fed. Jesus is not deterred when people from around the world enter the Church seeking nourishment. Jesus feeds hungry souls every day.

Jesus deserves to be viewed with awe. Jesus merits worship and glory. Jesus personifies love. The five thousand fed in the current Gospel witnessed first-hand Jesus' Divine powers.

Readers of the Gospel uncover Jesus' powers throughout life. The Christian life is a life of discovery and adventure. God continues to be revealed for those with eyes to see.

Each day opens views of the miracles of the Lord God. Each day God is present for believers to experience Divine Love. The sun rises each day providing evidence of God's love.

The Church reaches across the globe to feed hungry souls. Today's world enables communications about the Lord to occur instantaneously. Believers are blessed to hear the Gospel in distant locations.

Present believers are challenged to witness about God's miracles. Each person is a recipient of God's love. Each person owes gratitude to God. Confessing belief in the Lord God is a way to show gratitude.

The way a person lives reveals the depth of personal faith. Daily actions verify the certainty of faith within the heart, mind and soul. God welcomes expressions of gratitude. .(Luke 17:12-17)

Believers coming to God's Holy Church seeking salvation of the soul experience joy in the heart, mind and soul. Salvation equates with joy in the Living, Loving God.

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost. Holy Martyr Eusebius. Forefeast of the Transfiguration. August 5/18, 2024. Hidden Valley, Pennsylvania.

Father Rodney Torbic