

# The Hand of the Lord feeds us!

What's **the most popular room** in your house?  
**In most every home** I've been in, it's been **the kitchen!**

**Why?** Because that's where **the food is!**  
We're **sociable people** ...  
and we especially like to talk to one another while **eating and drinking.**

**Eating and drinking** are **pleasurable activities** ... **God** made them that way.  
**In fact God** has attached pleasure to many things that He wants us to do.

**He** wants us to eat ... and **He** wants us to drink ... and He wants us to sleep.  
**So He's** made those pleasurable activities ... but **pleasure** is not their purpose.

The purpose of eating is **nourishment**;  
The purpose of drinking is **hydration.**

We need to nourish and hydrate ourselves in order to live.

**God** knows this and He helps us to attain **the nourishment** we need.

**Today,** we heard of two instances of **God** helping to feed **His people!**

In our **First Reading**, we heard **how Elisha** fed 100 people with **20 loaves** of bread.  
And in **John's Gospel** we heard **how Our Lord** fed 5000 with just 5 loaves of bread.

**Both** of these were miraculous events!

**And** they show us several things about **God.**

1. **God** sees us in our need.
2. **God** has compassion on us and desires to take care of us.
3. **God has the power** to take care of us even in the **most dire situations** ...  
where it doesn't seem possible that we could receive help.
4. **God's care** for us is **lavish and excessive.**

**Lets'** look at each of these truths:

**First of all: God** sees us in our need.

**John** tells us, "*Jesus raised his eyes and saw a large crowd coming to him.*"

**Jesus** doesn't miss a thing.

**We, His brothers and sisters** are always in his sight;

He sees us when we're satisfied ... and He sees us in our need.

**Nothing** escapes his view.

**Secondly, God has compassion on us and desires to take care of us.**

**Notice how right after Jesus asked Philip**

**where they could buy enough food for the people to eat**

**John points out that Jesus only “said this to test him,**

**because he himself knew what he was going to do.”**

**Jesus knew all along that He was going to feed the people ...**

**so great was His compassion for those who had spent the day without food.**

**Thirdly, God has the power to take care of us even in dire situations of need ...**

where receiving help seems impossible.

**The Apostle Philip tells Jesus, “Two hundred days wages worth of food**

**would not be enough for each of them to have a little.”**

What **Philip** was saying was:

there’s no way on earth that we’ll be able to feed this crowd!

And he was right ... there was **no way on earth** to feed that many people.

**But there was a way ... with the help of Almighty God!**

**In both the Old and New Testament accounts, there was **no conceivable way** that **the number of hungry people** could be fed by the amount of available food.**

**For Elisha, there were only 20 loaves for **100 people** ... a **5 to 1** ratio of need.**

**For Jesus, there were only 5 loaves for **5000 people** ... a **1000 to 1** ratio of need.**

**Feeding them would require a miracle ... and **God was there** to provide it.**

**And Fourthly, these miraculous feedings show us ... **the lavishness** of God!**

**When God gives, He doesn’t give us just enough and no more.**

**When God gives, He always gives us more than enough.**

**With Elisha, Scripture says, “When they had eaten, there was some left over.”**

**With Jesus, John points out that **the Apostles** went around and gathered up the fragments from the feeding ... **12 wicker baskets full.****

**The people didn’t get just a sampling of food, Scripture says they had their fill!**

**So what kind of God do we have?**

**A God who watches over us and sees our need,**

**A God who desires to satisfy our need,**

**A God who has the power to do so even when there’s no earthly way visible**

**A God who provides His help in a **lavish and abundant way.****

After hearing of **these two scripture accounts**, **where else** would you turn for help?

Is there **any other source around** of such compassionate and abundant power?

**No!** There's **only God** ... whose praises we sang in our **Responsorial Psalm** saying, "*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.*"

Now **as much as** God wants to satisfy our physical needs,  
He's **even more interested** in satisfying our spiritual needs.

And He uses **these displays** of **His power** in the physical world  
to get us to believe that He has similar power in the spiritual world.

These **miraculous feedings** of the people  
were meant to prefigure how Jesus would one day establish the Eucharist  
to feed us spiritually with **His very Body and Blood**.

**Did you notice** the time of year that **this miraculous feeding of the 5000** took place?

**John** makes a point of saying, "*The Jewish feast of Passover was near.*"

**John** was emphasizing the connection between  
**the miraculous Multiplication of the loaves at the Sea of Galilee**  
and **the miraculous multiplication of Jesus ... in the loaves ... at the Last Supper**.

These events took place one year apart ... at the **time of Passover!**

The **Miraculous Feeding** that took place on Holy Thursday  
and is celebrated in every Mass ... fully displays the **characteristics of God**.

**That God** sees us in our need ... that he desires to help us ...  
that he has the power to help us and that He is lavish in his help.

**As Jesus** was preparing to leave this world ...  
He saw the need of the Apostles and **all people** for all time. for **spiritual strength**.

**So** out of **compassion** for us, He established a way to feed us supernaturally ...  
with **bread from Heaven** ... which is nothing less than Himself ...  
his very own Body and Blood.

**Jesus** took **the most natural thing we do** ... **eating** ... and made it the way that we  
gain spiritual nourishment ... **eating Bread** ... **the Bread from Heaven**.

**The lavishness of God** is evident in this in the way Jesus gave  
**the power** to provide the Eucharist to His Apostles to use and to hand on  
**to all Bishops and Priests for all time** to the end of time.

This repeatable enduring miracle shows **the lavish love of God!**

The **Mystery of the Eucharist** is clearly described in the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Gospel of **John**. Over the **next 5 Sundays**, we will read this entire chapter.

This is a **privilege** that only happens once every three years! It's because we're reading predominantly from Mark's Gospel this year and with his being the shortest, the Church gives us **the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of John** to meditate on in a special way.

**Today** we read **verses 1 – 15**.

In these verses, we see Jesus **preparing the people**.

**What's He** preparing them for?

- To **first of all** believe that He had **the power** to feed them physically,
- So they would **later** believe that He had **the power** to feed them spiritually.

Yes, in **feeding the 5000**, Jesus showed the people that **He** could multiply bread.  
Later He would **call them to believe** that **He** could multiply Himself, in the bread.

**Jesus** will tell us later in **John 6** that we must eat His flesh and drink His blood.  
but, Jesus returned to the Father and isn't here in the flesh any more ....

**So how** are we to feed on His flesh and blood.

There's **no way** on earth for this to happen!

**But as in the feeding of the 5000**, **God** *can find a way where there is no way*.

And **God's way** is **the Eucharist** ... the **Miraculous Bread from Heaven**, which is the **Body and Blood of Jesus** veiled under the appearance of **bread and wine!**

**God's way** of feeding us spiritually is through **the Eucharist**

**Like eating food**, **God** attaches great pleasure to consuming the Eucharist...

It's **His way** of motivating us to do what is so necessary for our spiritual life.

**The Eucharist** removes Venial Sins and strengthens us in our Baptismal promises.

**Today**, let's **rejoice in** how observant and caring and powerful and lavish our God is.  
**He** delights in caring for our bodies and our souls.

**So let's** come regularly to the Table of the Lord ...

to feed on the miraculous Bread from Heaven.