

Lenten Midday Prayer – February 21, 2024 (Feeding of the “How Many”)?

Welcome

St. Luke’s Preschool Singers

Opening Prayer – Screen

L: O God of Peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Litany of Healing – Screen

L: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers:

(Please take a moment of silent reflection.)

L: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation.

C: Have mercy on us.

L: God the Son, who came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly.

C: Have mercy on us.

L: God the Spirit, whose temple our bodies are.

C: Have mercy on us.

L: Holy Trinity, in whom we live, and move, and have our being.

C: Have mercy on us. Amen.

First Reading: 2nd Kings 4:42-44 – Screen

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat.’ But his servant said, ‘How can I set this before a hundred people?’ So he repeated, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, “They shall eat and have some left.” ’ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

L. The Word of the Lord,

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:30-44; 8:1-10 – Screen

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, ‘Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, ‘This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.’ But he answered them, ‘You give them something to eat.’ They said to him, ‘Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?’ And he said to them, ‘How many loaves have you? Go and see.’ When they had found out, they said, ‘Five, and two fish.’ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. And all ate and were filled; and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men. In those days when there was again a great crowd without anything to eat, he called his disciples and said to

them, 'I have compassion for the crowd, because they have been with me now for three days and have nothing to eat. If I send them away hungry to their homes, they will faint on the way—and some of them have come from a great distance.' His disciples replied, 'How can one feed these people with bread here in the desert?' He asked them, 'How many loaves do you have?' They said, 'Seven.' Then he ordered the crowd to sit down on the ground; and he took the seven loaves, and after giving thanks he broke them and gave them to his disciples to distribute; and they distributed them to the crowd. They had also a few small fish; and after blessing them, he ordered that these too should be distributed. They ate and were filled; and they took up the broken pieces left over, seven baskets full. Now there were about four thousand people. And he sent them away. And immediately he got into the boat with his disciples and went to the district of Dalmanutha.

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers – Screen

L: We pray that you will hear us, O Lord; and will grant your grace to all.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will be with the leaders of the nations, that their decisions will sustain the lives of the most vulnerable among us.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will sustain those who face long or terminal illness, bearing them up as on eagle's wings.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will abide with all who are lonely or despondent, having no one to comfort them.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will restore all who are in mental darkness to soundness of mind and cheerfulness of heart.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will grant us life eternal so we may live in your hope that doesn't disappoint.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will give your wisdom in ample measure to doctors, nurses, and medical workers of all kind, so that with knowledge, skill, patience, they may minister to the sick.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will give us grateful hearts for your healing power already at work all around us.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

Lord's Prayer – Screen

L: Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us.

C: 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. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer – Screen

L: Jesus Lamb of God, bearer of our sins, redeemer of the world.

C: Have mercy on us and give us your peace. Amen.

Benediction - Screen

L: May the Lord fill us with the light and truth and love of the Spirit, overflowing that we share it with others in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.