

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 28, 2024: 2 Kgs 4:42-44 | Ps 145:10-11,15-18 | Eph 4:1-6 | Jn 6:1-15

**Pray:** Jesus, thank you for your provision and divine nourishment to fill all our needs. Amen.

### The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes Points to the Miracle of the Eucharist

The miracle of the loaves and fishes showcases Christ's radical love and compassion toward the people in the crowd who had been listening to Him for hours. Constantly aware of every need of His followers, Jesus knew the people were tired and hungry. He also knew their minds and souls hungered for more time with Him. This moment on the Sea of Galilee offered the perfect opportunity for Jesus to reveal His divine identity as God's Chosen One.



He wanted them to trust Him to care for their needs. He wished to show them He was sent to complete the work of salvation, the one who would usher in the New Kingdom. This supernatural miracle was also a great precursor to His soon-to-be-coming institution of the Holy Eucharist, Christ's ultimate gift of nourishment for our souls. The people were impressed with Jesus' fantastic miracle but still misunderstood His intention. Although he spoke to them at length about the kingdom of heaven, they seemed eager to make Him a king only to serve their political and temporal needs on earth.

The supernatural power of Jesus, as demonstrated in the miracle of the loaves and fishes, is not a distant memory but a living reality in our lives today. For those who dare to believe, Jesus offers His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist, just as He promised. This Sacrament is not a mere ritual but a transformative experience. It is very real. When we partake of His Body and drink His Blood, the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – becomes alive within us, shaping us into the image of God, who is pure love, mercy, and compassion.

This ongoing connection with Jesus, as He continues to nourish our souls, not only guides us towards the heavenly kingdom but also equips us to overcome the obstacles of sin, to see Christ in others, and to be Christ to others. This connection is a constant source of reassurance and comfort, reminding us that we are never alone on our spiritual

journey. The Spirit of Christ is alive, and He is with us. Expect miracles!

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How has God provided for your temporal and spiritual needs in different seasons of your life?
- † In what areas of your life do you need to trust God more?
- † What implication does this miracle story of the loaves and fishes have for families and ministries?