

2nd Friday of Easter “Food for the Journey”
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The Gospel story begins with the crowd following Jesus and the disciples to a deserted place. A very practical problem was unfolding, how are we going to feed all these people. They were in a deserted place and the people were hungry. Life can feel like that deserted place sometimes, don't you think, a place where we find ourselves hungry, hungering for something more.

Jesus is able to take some loaves and some fish and feed everyone present. And, there are all kinds of symbols and numbers that are interesting. We could spend an hour with them, however, the story boils down to a couple of important points. The first is God wants to feed us. That is no small point. When the Hebrews were in the desert God fed them bread from heaven. When Elijah was at his wits end and ready to die, an angel appears and gives him bread. This means, wherever we find ourselves hungering for something more in life, God wants to feed us. The second point is that God's grace is superabundant. God can take simple things like a couple loaves and fish and multiply it into a feast. Can you imagine what God can do with the gifts we give him today, whatever it is, our time, talent, treasure, whatever. God can take whatever gifts we bring to him and multiply them more than we can ever know. God can also do that with our prayers. God's grace is superabundant.

I think this Gospel reading boils down to this question: What do we hunger for most in life right now? What is it that we are spiritually starving for? What concerns us most, earthly things or heavenly things? You see, as much as we hunger for God, the Good News is God hungers for us more. This means God hungers for you. During mass, God's grace will again overflow for us. Simple gifts of the earth will be transformed into the Body and Blood of Jesus. And even if all we can do is receive communion spiritually today, we can still welcome Jesus into our hearts, we can because God's grace is superabundant. And when we welcome God into our hearts today, he will feed us if we let him. He will give us the spiritual food we need that alone can satisfy the longings of the heart. If we let him, Jesus will be our food for the journey to help us make it through another day.