

XVIII Sunday of the TO  
August 2 2026 – Cycle A



**THE TABLE THAT NO ONE CLOSES**

Brothers and sisters, welcome to this table that no one closes. Today Isaiah cries out to us from the desert: come without money, without merit, only with hunger and thirst for true life. Paul reminds us that nothing—not anguish, not emptiness, not the longest nights—can tear us away from the love of Christ, a love that already bears our name. And the Gospel places us in front of a tired and hungry crowd, and in front of a Jesus who does not calculate: his entrails are stirred and he orders his people to "give them something to eat". That gesture continues to resonate today, in our hands, in our neighborhood, at every table where there is a lack of bread or too much loneliness. Let us be ready to share what we are, convinced that in God's hands a little becomes abundance for all.

### **SINGING. WATER OF LIFE - CHESD**

[https://youtu.be/sNvy\\_JjQAAC?si=ZuEbaCzPac6XTO7Z](https://youtu.be/sNvy_JjQAAC?si=ZuEbaCzPac6XTO7Z)

### **EVANGELIO – MATEO 14, 13 – 21**

"When Jesus heard this, he departed from there in a boat to a deserted and secluded place; and when the people heard him, they followed him on foot from the cities. And Jesus went out, and saw a great multitude, and had compassion on them, and healed those who were sick among them. When evening was falling, his disciples came to him, saying, "The place is deserted, and the hour is past; Send the crowd away, so that they go through the villages and buy food. Jesus said to them, "You have no need to go; you give them something to eat. And they said, "We have here only five loaves and two fish." He said to them, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the people to lie down on the grass; And he took the five loaves and the two fish, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and blessed, and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples, and the disciples to the multitude. And they all ate, and were satisfied; and they gathered up what was left of the pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting the women and children.»

### **TO DEEPEN THE WORD**

**Is 55:1-3.** Even in times of plenty, we may lack good things that are not on the market: inner peace, the reason for living, and the hope of loving.

**Psalm 144:8-18.** Tenderness and goodness, justice and fidelity of the Lord, these are the goods brought by the Covenant.

**Rom 8:35. Verses 37-39.** In the midst of all matters, Paul cannot refrain from saying, with a loud voice, how faith and the love of God, manifested in Jesus, provoke enthusiasm.

**Matthew 14:13 – 21.** This episode of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes follows that of the announcement of the execution of John the Baptist on Herod's orders. Matthew recounts the death of John the Baptist and concludes by saying: "John 's disciples went to take the body and shrouded it; then they went to report to Jesus" (Mt 14:12). Jesus' first reaction, which seems prudent, is to withdraw: "When Jesus heard them, he went from there in a boat to a deserted and secluded place" (Mt 14:13). But the crowds quickly caught up with him, and Jesus did not resist because "he had compassion on them." This is what seems to us to be reckless and madness. Political imprudence first, because the wise thing would be to make himself forget, since his popularity was going to lose him. Madness, to believe that the five loaves and the two fish will be enough to feed so many people. The disciples, more realistic, make him see that it is too little, but Jesus, who counts as well as they do, says without flinching "give them something to eat yourselves". When Jesus says "give them something to eat yourselves", it is not precisely to test them: it is to make them realize that they are capable of doing so, but they do not know it yet... or they don't believe it. Then follows the confirmation of what we could call their destitution. Matthew notes that Jesus "blessed" the loaves: "lifting up his eyes to heaven, he pronounced the blessing"; which is not a magical rite about bread, but it is a matter of recognizing bread as a gift of God and asking him to know how to use the gift in the service of the hungry. **And also to rejoice in their own poverty, since it is the privileged place of God's action.**

## **GOLD WITH THE WORD**

Offering 5 loaves and two fish for so many, naivety? Confidence? In my life, do I give up my two loaves and fishes? How do I do it? It would be good to live destitution as a place where God acts, do I live it and express it in this way in my life?



**JEFF WAHL - "LULLABY"**

<https://youtu.be/PqNWQtGXASo?si=WuzhOcws2Duv2ghd>

## **THE EMBRACE WITHOUT BORDERS**

Next to the dry well,  
A voice resounds: "Come  
without coins, bring only  
hunger".

There is no toll to the sky, no  
fence on the table, water is  
free, bread is only delivered.

This is supported by  
signatures  
who never doubts neither  
abyss nor swordsmen take  
away the embrace.

Neither longer night, nor  
deeper fear, nor absence nor  
ruin erase the name.

Jesus disembarks and his chest  
opens, it is not cold pity, they  
are entrails that burn.

"Give them something to eat"  
the order is up to us, there is  
no excuse of hunger where  
there are open hands.

Five loaves, two fishes,  
trembling in doubt, and the  
sky splits them, the little  
multiplies.

Let nothing separate us, not  
even an empty table, let us be  
the broken bread that feeds  
everyone.

**SINGING. NOTHING WILL SEPARATE US FROM GOD'S  
LOVE**

<https://youtu.be/Q2yRkUEXxdk?si=Y2Lmyqz9nqyIW8f>



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