

AGAPE FEAST

GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 14:13–21 The Voice Translation

When Jesus learned what had happened, He got on a boat and went away to spend some time in a private place. The crowds, of course, followed Jesus on foot from their cities. *Though Jesus wanted solitude*, when He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, and He healed the sick *and the lame*. At evening-time, Jesus' disciples came to Him.

Disciples: We're in a fairly remote place, and it is getting late; *the crowds will get hungry for supper*. Send them away so they have time to get back to the villages and get something to eat.

Jesus: They don't need to go back to the villages in order to eat supper. Give them something to eat here.

Disciples: *But we don't have enough food*. We only have five rounds of flatbread and two fish.

Jesus: Bring the bread and the fish to Me.

So the disciples brought Him the five rounds of flatbread and the two fish, and Jesus told the people to sit down on the grass. He took the bread and the fish, He looked up to heaven, He gave thanks, and then He broke the bread. Jesus gave the bread to the disciples, and the disciples gave the bread to the people; everyone ate and was satisfied. *When everyone had eaten*, the disciples picked up 12 baskets of *crusts and broken pieces of bread and crumbs*. There were 5,000 men there, not to mention all the women and children.

CALL TO THE FEAST

PRAYER OF ADORATION:

Living God, you are present in our midst and we praise you. You are tearing down walls of alienation and exclusion. For this, we praise you because, in Jesus, you have shown us a way of hospitality, simplicity, prayer, peacemaking, and resistance. Because your Spirit makes a new path for us, as we struggle to live in the shadow of doubt and fear. Weak as we are, you fill us with hope. Lover of our souls, you give us joy and we praise you. Amen.

SIGNS & SYMBOLS

SHARING THE FEAST

"Christ Be With Me" (Work of the People)

Refrain

Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth,
From despair to hope, from fear to trust.
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.
Let peace fill our hearts, let peace fill our world,
Let peace fill our universe.

1. Still all the angry cries, still all the angry guns,
Still now your people die, earth's sons and daughters.
Let justice roll, let mercy pour down,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.

Refrain

2. So many lonely hearts, so many broken lives,
Longing for love to break into their anguish.
Come, teach us love, come, teach us peace,
Come and teach us your way of compassion.

Refrain

3. Let justice ever roll, let mercy fill the earth,
Let us begin to grow into your people.
We can love, we can bring peace,
We can still be your way of compassion.

Refrain

BENEDICTION & SENDING

POSTLUDE

Hallelujah

(Adele)