

Scripture for the Ninth Sunday after Pentecost, August 2, 2020

Introduction to the Gospel Lesson: Matthew 14:13-21 Feeding the Five Thousand

The activities of Jesus shift from his telling many parables up through chapter 13 to more miracle-like activities in chapter 14. The chapter begins with the horrible story of the be-heading of John the Baptist by Herod. That story ends with the account of John's disciples taking his body for burial. Upon Jesus hearing about John's death, Jesus was grieved and he took a boat to a deserted place to rest. But alas, many people followed Jesus. Thus, we read the story of Jesus feeding miracle of the 5,000. Listen to this story in Matthew 14.13-21:

A Reading from Matthew 14:13-21

¹³ Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴ When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. ¹⁵ When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." ¹⁶ Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." ¹⁷ They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." ¹⁸ And he said, "Bring them here to me." ¹⁹ Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. ²⁰ And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. ²¹ And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.