

July 28, 2024



INTERSECTIONS

By Julie Mussché

Excerpts from Today's Readings

A man came from Baal-shalishah bringing to Elisha, the man of God, twenty barley loaves made from the firstfruits, and fresh grain in the ear.

Elisha said, "Give it to the people to eat."

But his servant objected,

"How can I set this before a hundred people?"

Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat.

For thus says the LORD,

"They shall eat and there shall be some left over."

And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the LORD had said.

2 KINGS 4:42-44

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,

*urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,
with all humility and gentleness, with patience,
bearing with one another through love,
striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace:
one body and one Spirit,
as you were also called to the one hope of your call.*

EPHESIANS 4:1-4

*Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks,
and distributed them to those who were reclining,
and also as much of the fish as they wanted.
When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples,
“Gather the fragments left over,
so that nothing will be wasted.”
So they collected them,
and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments
from the five barley loaves
that had been more than they could eat.
When the people saw the sign he had done, they said,
“This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.”
Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off
to make him king,
he withdrew again to the mountain alone.*

JOHN 6:11-15

Reflection

Today's reading beautifully intersects a tradition of faith, hope, and love. Exploring the first and third readings, have you ever had a gathering where you wondered if there would be enough to eat? It is always a bit embarrassing to be in that position, and one may consider options to help fill out the menu. In the readings, both Elisha and Jesus directed that people be fed with what was available: “They shall eat and there shall be some left over,” and “Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted,” they respectively affirm. How was it that, in both cases, there were leftovers? Faith that there would be enough, hope that God would provide and all would have their fill? And then there's love.

In the second reading, St. Paul reminds us to be generous towards each other, “bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace: one body and one Spirit.” Perhaps that is an

introduction to understanding the miracle of leftovers? At least, perhaps in part, people shared with each other? That does seem rather miraculous.



Foods on the Table
By Team PicFast

For Pondering

- Taking the lead from St. Paul, what does it mean for you to bear with one another through love?
 - When have you had occasion to preserve the spirit of unity through the bond of peace?
 - How does living into unity and love help to create miracles in your life?
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For Prayer

A Prayer from Psalm 145

*I will exalt you, my God the King;
I will praise your name for ever and ever.*

*Every day I will praise you
and extol your name for ever and ever.*

*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;
his greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends your works to another;
they tell of your mighty acts.
They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.
They tell of the power of your awesome works—
and I will proclaim your great deeds.
They celebrate your abundant goodness
and joyfully sing of your righteousness....
The eyes of all look to you,
and you give them their food at the proper time.
You open your hand
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.*

PSALM 145:1-7, 15-16

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