

July 25, 2021

Outline

-- read scripture reading **after the poem (below): John 6:1-14**

Scripture reading is from John's gospel.

Account of **feeding of 5000**.

It's reported in all four gospels -- only differently.

Last week, we read that Jesus and the disciples retreated to a **quiet lonely place to rest**.

That's what happens **just before this feeding**.

Then they are surrounded by a huge crowd.

Our faith is **personal but not private**.

Combination of: Quiet time and gathered community.

So to set **the scene**:

Northern Galilee, green lush, **hillside by lake**.

John's account says that the withdrawal was to a mountain.

Actually the hills around the sea of Galilee are not like mountains in Oregon.

I've been there...

Place called **Tabgha**

Everyone **gathered and hungry**.

Feeding and communion

This as model for our Lord's supper.

Jesus does not break but distributes in John.

Before the food is distributed, Jesus **GIVES THANKS**

The word: Eucharist.

Not breaking -- as in other places -- but here -- **thankfulness...**

What are you thankful for...?

Mosaic on ground in Tabgha -- of two fish and baskets.

This might reflect **our practice here today...**

You all brought communion elements today

We have **not done this in person for more than a year**.

Yet it is central to our faith.

This eucharist reflects a central piece of our faith as a feast of grace.

Have any of you **missed this**?

As we prepare to partake together, consider this **miraculous** sign of feeding:

John only reports that one boy had 5 loaves and two fish.

But afterward **there were leftovers!** / There was more than enough.

What we have -- is enough.

As we prepare to partake together, consider **what you are thankful for...**

As you do, I'll read a **poem if gratitude** by Walt Whitman, called "**Miracles**":