

## Liturgy Instructions

### 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time Cycle B

Welcome children to their worship space.

#### Introduction

**Explain:** For the last few weeks, we have been talking about faith: what it is, and what it means to have faith in Jesus. When we have faith in Jesus, we know he will take care of our needs.

#### Introduce symbol

**Say:** [Hold up picture of symbol] What do you think this is? <bread and fish>

**Ask:** Do you remember something that Jesus did with bread and fish? Today's Gospel tells us about a special miracle that Jesus performed with bread and fish.

**Explain:** Scripture tells us that Jesus performed many miracles. Do you remember some of them? <discussion> Why do you think that Jesus performed miracles? <discussion> Jesus always performed miracles to satisfy a human need like for food or healing. His miracles were always dependent upon somebody believing in Jesus and doing what he said to do. What is another word for that belief? <FAITH> Jesus asks us to believe in him and to do what he asks of us.

#### Introduce readings

**Say:** The first reading is from the Old Testament, from the second book of Kings (II Kings 4:42-44). It is a story about the prophet Elisha and how, through faith in God, he fed 100 people with 20 loaves of barley bread.

**Say:** The readings in the Old Testament often give a clue to or foreshadow the things that Jesus would do while he was on earth. Most of the people of Jesus' time knew the Scriptures. They knew all about Elisha and the 20 loaves of barley bread.

**Explain:** The people of Jesus' time revered and honored Elisha as a holy man. Imagine how they must have felt when Jesus came along and performed much greater works for the glory of God! Some of them would be impressed, some of them would honor Jesus, and some of them would be frightened. Because Jesus did wondrous things, many people were confused. They didn't know what to think.

Have the reader read the first reading.

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**FIRST READING**

A reading from the second book of Kings 4:42-44

See <https://www.pflaum.com/readings/>**The word of the Lord. All: "Thanks be to God"**

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**Ask:** Does this story about the prophet Elisha remind you of any story you have heard before? <let the children guess, and then ask them to listen closely to the Gospel reading>

**Say:** Now it is time for the Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 145:10-11, 15-16). Your part is to say: **You open your hand to feed us, Lord; you answer all our needs.**

See <https://www.pflaum.com/readings/>

**Say:** Today's Gospel reading was written by St. John (John 6:1-15). It tells a story about one of Jesus' miracles, a story that many of you are probably familiar with. This is the story of how Jesus fed a lot of people with only five loaves and two fishes. It is also a story of how many of the people misunderstood what Jesus came to do. The people believed that Jesus had come to be an earthly king. They didn't understand that he was here as the Son of God.

**Say:** Now we will get ready to hear the Gospel. **Please stand up.**

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**GOSPEL**

John 6:1-15

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to John  
**(Demonstrate we cross our foreheads, lips, and hearts when we say "a reading from the holy Gospel...")**

See <https://www.pflaum.com/readings/>**The Gospel of the Lord. All: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ."**

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**Please have the children sit**

**Ask:** Was today's Gospel reading the story you thought of that was like the first reading? This story reminds us that Jesus takes care of all our needs. In turn, he asks us to help him take care of other people's needs.

*If there is time, ask questions and go over the parts of the lessons you think they may need to hear one more time to help them remember.*

**Today's symbol is bread and fish.**



Parent Letter: 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B

**Dear Parents,**

Today your children heard a simplified version of the same readings that you heard: II Kings 4:42-44 and John 6:1-15.

**To reinforce at home:**

Today's symbol is bread and a fish to represent today's Gospel reading about the miracle of the feeding of the five thousand. We continue to stress our current theme of FAITH. All of Jesus' miracles required that someone have faith in him. Jesus often worked through his faithful people to get his works accomplished.

**Activities to do at home:**

**\*Go to the grocery store.** Let your child pick out some food at the grocery store to donate to the church food pantry and show them that Jesus is working through them to feed the hungry. (If you choose the "buy 1, get 1 free" items, you can give twice as much.)

**\*Be careful about wasting food.** Jesus' followers collected 12 baskets of leftovers. Help your child learn to prevent waste by preserving whatever they don't eat (when practical).

**\*Pray together.** Pray with your child first thing in the morning that together you might be able to recognize and do whatever Jesus wants you to do that day.