



## YEAR A – AUGUST 2, 2020

God speaks to us today through the prophet Isaiah (Is 55:1-3) and says to us, “All you who are thirsty...come to the water. You who have no money...come without paying...”. God is talking here about the needs of the human spirit. The human spirit is tested in many different ways, including the covid 19 pandemic, the likes of which we have never seen.

The Responsorial Psalm today says, “The hand of the Lord feeds us. He answers all our needs.” Those needs have nothing to do with food in the ordinary sense of that word. Those needs often include the grace we need for very trying circumstances that include suffering. By way of example, Father Mark Link points out in one of his homilies, “Some of the most beautiful music in our world has come from people who have been seasoned by suffering, by tragedies, and by trials.” They understood what Isaiah meant when he said, “All you who are thirsty, come to the water.... come without paying.”

For example: Handel wrote his famous “Hallelujah Chorus” when he was poverty stricken and suffering from a paralyzed right side and right arm. Beethoven was the son of an alcoholic father. He lost his hearing when he was 28 years old. When he conducted the first performance of his Ninth Symphony, he could not hear the music as it was played. Nor could he hear the thunderous applause that followed the performance.

Another example: At the time he was painting the “Angelus”, the great French painter Millet wrote these words, “We have only enough fuel for a few days. And they won’t give us anymore unless we can scrape together the money.” Yet from hands so cold they could hardly hold a brush came one of the world’s greatest paintings.

What are the trials and the hardships you have endured in your life? All of us have been affected by the pandemic that has brought our country and the rest of the world to a standstill. We can choose to be victims and curse the day we were born, or we can follow the advice of Isaiah who spoke to a people enslaved in Babylon. “All you who are thirsty, come to the water...come without paying.”

Open your heart totally to God. Do what the Apostles did in today’s Gospel (Matthew 14:13-21). We must give our 5 loaves and two fish to our Lord and let him do with them whatever he will. He can still perform miracles. Faith does not know where it is being led but it trusts the one who is leading. And one day, we will understand. Consider the wisdom in an old poem called the “Folded Page”.

It goes something like this: “Up in a quaint old attic as the raindrops pattered down, I sat paging through an old schoolbook – dusty, tattered and brown. I came to a page that was folded over. And across it was written in childish hand: “the teacher says to leave this now, it’s hard to understand. I unfolded the page and read it. Then I nodded my head and said, “the teacher was right – now I understand.

When we cross the bridge of death, whenever that will be, we will take with us some unfolded pages of life. In the kingdom of heaven, we will unfold them in the presence of God. And then, we will be able to say, “Now I understand.”