

Tuesday, April 28, 2020; Third Week of Easter

Acts 7:51–8:1; Psalm 30(31):3-4, 6, 8, 17, 21; John 6:30-35

“I am the bread of life.”

Having encouraged us to work for food that lasts, Jesus educates us on the difference between that and the alternative. Again, faith in Jesus offers lasting value; a wholesome faith in, and embrace of, him as our Bread of Life. Such bread has two important aspects. First, sufficiency. Bread denotes all that one needs for existence. As bread of life, Jesus suffices for all we need. It includes faith in the fact that he supplies our needs (Phil 4:19), by the sufficiency of his grace (2 Cor 12:9). So, bread is more than food, whether physical or spiritual. It is that and everything we need for survival, sustenance and livelihood. Second, nourishment. The teaching emerged from Jesus feeding of the multitude. Christ presents himself as real nourishment for body and soul. He nourishes us through the gift of himself to us as Word and Eucharist, providing strength for our pilgrimage through life's experiences. Both connotations are contained in our daily request from God: “give us this day our daily bread.” They also include God's provisions for us in times of suffering, pain and death, as exemplified by Stephen and the early disciples, under harsh persecution.

God, our Father, give us each day our daily bread. Amen.

--Fr. Maurice