

Singing Our Faith

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 29, 2018

We switch from the Gospel of Mark to the Gospel of John for a few weeks beginning this Sunday. This Sunday's gospel prepares us for the Bread of Life Discourse next weekend.

The opening hymn "We Come With Joy" finds its basis in the story of the multiplication of loaves and fishes. As we enter "God's time" in the Mass, preparing to celebrate the Eucharist, the end of the first stanza reminds us that God's bounty will always exceed our wants and fulfill our souls.

The second stanza places us, the worshipping assembly, in the role of the boy in the gospel who brought five barley loaves and two fish to feed a large crowd. The hymn writer uses the boy's meager supply as a metaphor for our time and talent. How many times have we spoken similar words: "I simply don't have the time to give. I'm not talented enough to contribute." Despite us and our supposed "poverty" of time and talent, everyone has a little something to give. The hymn writer encourages us to offer all our gifts to Christ, "however imperfect they may be."

One of the greatest parts of my ministry is realizing someone else's full potential. It's amazing to see how one person's talent can contribute so much to a group, despite how insignificant they view their contribution. Like Jesus blessing the boy's small offering and multiplying it for the benefit of others, so will God bless and multiply our offerings

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of time and talent to reach more people than we ever expected. Our job is easy: **hear the call and be willing to share our gifts.**

God's abundance never disappoints. Let's set aside all that discourages us and come to this Eucharist with joy!

(See hymn on page below)

Stephen Eros

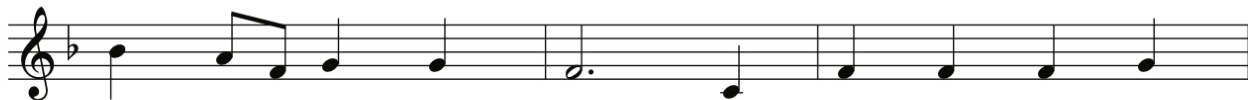
Director of Liturgy & Music

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We Come with Joy



1. We come with joy in Je - sus Christ, Who
2. A lit - tle bread is all we have, So
3. Like rip - ples in a pool, our gifts, How -



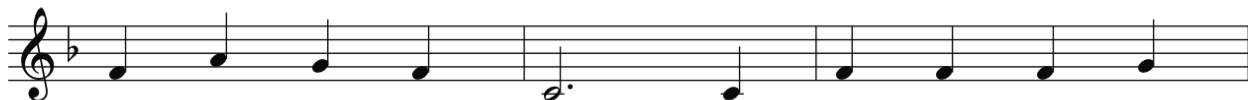
knows our hu - man need, Who, moved with pit - y
mea - ger our sup - ply; A lit - tle time, a
ev - er small they are, Will reach and heal a



for the poor, Would ev - 'ry hun - ger feed.
lit - tle love Can hard - ly sat - is - fy.
need - y world, Will com - fort near and far.



He blessed the fish and bar - ley loaves Till
But let us bring the best we have, De -
For Christ will bless our bit of bread, The



food was mul - ti - plied. His boun - ty o - ver -
spite our pov - er - ty, And of - fer all our
loaves our hands pro - vide, Till emp - ty bas - kets



flowed their want And all were sat - is - fied.
gifts to Christ, Im - per - fect though they be.
o - ver - flow And all are sat - is - fied.

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