

Day 6: Welcoming others: "Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last" (John 15:16b)

Scripture (see readings over the page)

- **Genesis 18:1-5**, Abraham hosts the angels at the Oak of Mamre
- **Mark 6:30-44**, Jesus' compassion for the crowds

Meditation

When we let ourselves be transformed by Christ, his love in us grows and bears fruit. Welcoming the other is a concrete way of sharing the love that is within us.

Throughout his life, Jesus welcomed those he met. He listened to them and let himself be touched by them without being afraid of their suffering.

In the gospel account of the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus is moved with compassion after seeing the hungry crowd. He knows that the entire human person must be nourished, and that he alone can truly satisfy the hunger for bread and the thirst for life. But he does not wish to do this without his disciples, without that little something they can give him: five loaves and two fish.

Even today he draws us to be co-workers in his unconditional care. Sometimes something as small as a kind look, an open ear, or our presence is enough to make a person feel welcome. When we offer our poor abilities to Jesus, he uses them in a surprising way.

We then experience what Abraham did, for it is by giving that we receive, and when we welcome others, we are blessed in abundance.



Prayer

Jesus Christ, we desire to welcome fully the brothers and sisters who are with us. You know how often we feel helpless in the face of their suffering, yet you are always there ahead of us and you have already received them in your compassion. Speak to them through our words, support them through our actions, and let your blessing rest on us all. Amen.

Genesis 18:1-5

A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah

18 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. **2** He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. **3** He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. **4** Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. **5** Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.' So they said, 'Do as you have said.'

Mark 6:30-44

Feeding the Five Thousand

30 The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. **31** He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. **32** And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. **33** Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. **34** As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things. **35** When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; **36** send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat.' **37** But he answered them, 'You give them something to eat.' They said to him, 'Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?' **38** And he said to them, 'How many loaves have you? Go and see.' When they had found out, they said, 'Five, and two fish.' **39** Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. **40** So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. **41** Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people; and he divided the two fish among them all. **42** And all ate and were filled; **43** and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. **44** Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.