

For What Are You Hungry?

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Genesis 14:18-20 - The priest Melchizedek
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 - The Eucharist
- ▶ Luke 9:11b-17 - Feeding the 5,000

The story of the feeding of the 5,000 is extraordinary in several ways. The fantastic miracle of the multiplication of the loaves is the most obvious. That was the flashy part. The substance behind the miracle, though, was Jesus' compassion for the crowd which had followed him, or sought him, far out in the wilderness.

The people in the crowd didn't go out into the wilderness to get food from Jesus because they were hungry. Who, in their right mind, would leave their home or village to go seeking food out in the desert? No, when the scene begins, the people are out in the wilderness because they are hungry for something else. (It sounds similar to the story of the crowds of people who went out to see and hear John the



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“As often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes again.”

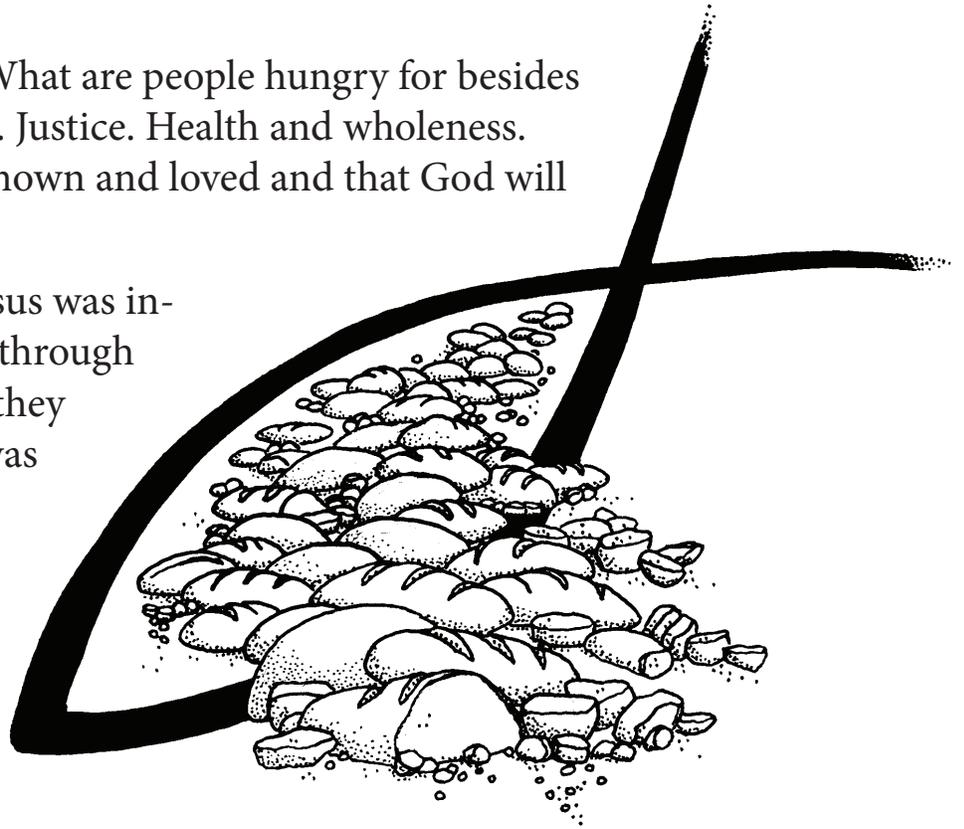
Sheepish Question:

How does knowing Jesus' sacrifice to supply my daily bread change the way I ask for it?

Baptist in the wilderness.) What are people hungry for besides food? Hope. Peace. Security. Justice. Health and wholeness. Reassurance that they are known and loved and that God will care for them.

Throughout the Gospels, Jesus was incredible in his ability to see through people to the heart of what they most needed. For some, it was physical healing. For some, words of forgiveness and mercy. For some, words of truth and justice addressed to the powerful. So when a crowd of people seeks out Jesus in the wilderness, he offers them what they

are most hungry for, healing for their illnesses and teachings about the Kingdom of God. After they spend the entire day with Jesus, then their physical hunger comes to the forefront, and Jesus provides for them in this way too.



Questions of the Week

- ① What is important enough to you that would you be willing to leave home to seek out something else?
- ② What are you hungering for most deeply at this time in your life?