

## **Discussion & Reflection Questions**

### **Pentecost 10A - 6<sup>th</sup> of August 2023**

#### **Read: Matthew 14.13-21**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. <sup>14</sup> When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. <sup>15</sup> When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, 'This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.' <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to them, 'They need not go away; you give them something to eat.' <sup>17</sup> They replied, 'We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.' <sup>18</sup> And he said, 'Bring them here to me.' <sup>19</sup> Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. <sup>20</sup> And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. <sup>21</sup> And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

#### **Discussion & Reflection Questions**

1. How do you feel about miracles?
2. Why did Jesus withdraw from the crowd? (Hint Matthew 14:1-12). How can withdrawing be healthy for us?
3. Why do you think this is the only miracle recorded in all 4 gospels?
4. What do you think motivates the disciples to suggest that the crowd be sent away?
5. What is the significance of the left-overs?
6. Do you consider the overflow a miracle in itself or just part of the miracle?
7. How are we or can we be participants in God's miracles in our world?

#### **Prayer**

O God, giver of life and health, whose Son Jesus Christ has called us to hunger and thirst for justice: refresh us with your grace, that we may not be weary in well-doing, for the sake of him who meets all our needs, Jesus Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.