

Let us pray... Loving God, be with us today... Transform us through your living bread and embolden us to share your bread with the world... Amen.

The Olympic games are underway and have been making many headlines over the past few weeks...

Unfortunately, I have not had time to tune into the games, but I have come across some recorded highlights...

Most of which were of Simone Biles... And every clip I have seen of her has been downright amazing...

In fact, she is so impressive, I couldn't watch her clips just once, I had to watch it again to see the talent radiating off of her...

At first, I thought it was funny, the need to watch it again, and then the more I thought about it, the more I thought, well that's what replays are for.

Take for example football, when an impressive play happens, they replay it right away...

And if the play is spectacular, they replay it over and over, and sometimes even in slow motion.

And when I think about football replays, I almost always think about... Donald Driver... Those one arm catches, his speed, and that gorgeous smile.

In fact, I recently discovered that someone put together a video of his top plays with the Packers...

Because his plays were fascinating... And when we see something fascinating, we crave to experience it over and over.

To bask in the glory of the moment as much as possible.

And last Sunday our Gospel overflowed with this kind of energy...

Last Sunday we heard how Jesus took 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish... And with that meal he fed 5,000 people and had 12 baskets of left-overs...

And if that wasn't amazing enough, then Jesus walks on water...

Last Sunday's Gospel was like the Super Bowl of Gospels or all the gold medals won at the Olympics...

And then we come to our Gospel today... Mind you, this Gospel picks up right after the feeding of the 5,000 and Jesus walking on water, without skipping a beat...

This is the same crowd of people... So they must have been filled with excitement, wonder and awe... Right?

Wrong... As these very people say to Jesus... "What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What works are you performing?"

Ahh... Hello, do you not remember what Jesus just did?

And the truth is... They forgot what took place just a little bit ago...

And instead, they brought up a story from a long time ago... A story from about 10 thousand years ago...

When their ancestors ate manna in the wilderness.

Because manna for them, was like an instant replay... Each and every day the Israelites would wake up to find a field of manna... Ripe and ready for the taking.

Manna in the wilderness became a constant reminder of God's faithfulness and how through that faithfulness, God provides...

It may not have been as miraculous as Jesus feeding 5,000 people or walking on water... But it was a constant reminder that God was with them.

Which is all great and dandy for the Israelites wandering about the wilderness, but what about us?

I guess, that's where faith comes in...

And faith can be hard... Especially since we don't see the signs like we read about in Scripture...

We don't see manna covering the forest floor ready for us to eat... We don't see Jesus walking on water, or exponentially multiplying bread and fish right in front of our eyes...

Instead, what we do see is a lot of pain and suffering in the world... A lot of heartache and misunderstanding...

And yet in the midst of that all... Somehow, faith, still finds us...

And in our faith, we find hope... And in our hope, we pray...

We pray for a better future... A future that may be years away or for later today.

Which might be why Jesus taught us to pray, and why he specifically taught us to pray, the Lord's prayer...

In the Lord's prayer we pray for a future that is years away when we say thy kingdom come, thy will be done... And then a few lines later we pray for today... When we say, give us this day our daily bread...

Afterall, Jesus became human... Jesus experienced what it is like to be hungry, and knows, that when you're hungry it is impossible to think about anything else, let alone the bigger picture...

And when it comes to God, there is always a bigger picture.

As God is constantly at work, right in front of our eyes each and every day... But we, like the crowd in our Gospel, so often miss it...

And then we, again like the crowd in our gospel, demand what we want, without realizing, Jesus is right in front of us, giving us what we need...

And this is the tricky thing about faith... Because what we need, can sometimes be very different from what we want, or what we have been praying for.

And God knows this... Which again is why Jesus taught us to pray, for our daily bread...

As our daily bread transforms us... It reshapes our expectations... Especially when we realize that our daily bread comes from Christ, the living bread from heaven...

This is how God works in the world... God is faithful and God provides...

And while this is true, the world is also messy and complex. Which means that God sometimes needs our help to ensure others get their daily bread.

Which is why we as Christians are called to give of ourselves—through love and service towards others—like Jesus taught, so all may be fed...

So all can experience God at work in the world... Through their daily bread, and in acts of kindness and grace.

As those are the moments when God is revealed.

Sure, it would be amazing to live a life filled with grandiose super bowl moments and gold medal winning replays, but that is also a little absurd, and not at all how the world works...

Rather those moments are exceptions to the ordinary... Simply a gift and a glimpse into what God can do...

Jesus feeding the 5,000 was just a peak into the feast to come...

This is the good news.... Jesus has come and Jesus remains with us today... Jesus is the foretaste of the feast to come...

A foretaste that fuels you with hope and nourishes your soul. A foretaste that is so powerful it can reshape your expectations... And it has been given to you, through the living bread of Christ... Amen.