

Sunday, July 28, 2024

Scripture Reading: John 6:1-21

The hunger for love is much more difficult to remove than the hunger for bread.
—Mother Teresa

The Paris Olympics began two days ago and, in practical terms, this means that every day more than 15,000 athletes will need three square meals a day.

Not to worry. The French have this covered. The participants are feasting on fresh baguettes, gourmet dishes and environment-friendly French cuisine — enjoying some of the 40,000 meals a day at the Olympic Village served up by some of France’s renowned chefs.

Alexandre Mazzia, whose AM restaurant in Marseille earned three Michelin guide stars, is serving a dish made of crushed chickpeas with herbs and a smoked fish sauce. Other chefs unveiled dishes that included an elaborate quinoa risotto and a chocolate mousse with raspberries. The athletes “know they will eat well here,” said one spokesperson. “Our goal is to provide them with high-quality food.”

The eatery at the Olympic Village seats 3,500 people, making it perhaps the largest restaurant — for the time being — in the world.

In the gospel lesson for today, Jesus faces the problem of feeding 5,000 men. But there were also the women and children. The disciples were going to send the crowds away. After all, they had no food and babies were crying and people were murmuring.

In the training manual for Ritz-Carlton Hotel employees, there’s a maxim that says, “If you see a problem, you own it.” To say, “It’s not my problem” or “It’s not my job” is not acceptable. If you see a problem, you own it — you take responsibility.

So, in this spirit, according to Matthew, Jesus says to the disciples, “You give them something to eat” (Matthew 14:16, emphasis added). Jesus doesn’t do the reasonable thing here, the rational thing, but turns the problem into an opportunity — a teachable moment. You give them something to eat.

Fortunately, a boy stepped up with five baguettes and two fish. It was more than enough. Everyone got their fill.

When we accept Jesus’ challenge to feed those who are around us, the meal will be provided and there will be plenty to go around.

— Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, loaves and fish are yours to distribute as you see fit. May I have eyes to see those who are hungry and in need of my help. In your name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Acts 13-14
Monday: 2 Kings 22-25
Tuesday: Obadiah
Wednesday: Jeremiah 1-2
Thursday: Jeremiah 3-5
Friday: Jeremiah 6-8
Saturday: Psalms 82-84

TRUE OR FALSE?

This puzzle is based on the story of Ruth. Answer each statement, **True** or **False**. Circle the letter in the correct answer column. Write each circled letter on the numbered lines below to discover the secret word. We've done the first one for you.

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Naomi was Ruth's mother.	D	R
2. Ruth was a Moabite.	T	P
3. Naomi wanted Ruth to leave her and return to Moab.	N	L
4. Orpah was Naomi's hired hand.	H	S
5. Boaz lived in Bethlehem.	C	B
6. Boaz was a farmer.	U	V
7. Ruth made a living begging at the gates of Bethlehem.	X	E
8. Boaz instructed his workers to leave extra grain in the field for Ruth to glean.	E	J
9. Boaz invited Ruth to eat with the harvesters.	R	Q
10. Boaz was related to Naomi.	I	W
11. Boaz refuses to marry Ruth.	F	R
12. Ruth is the great-grandmother of King David.	O	G

WORD ASSOCIATION

Below are lists of words. To solve each puzzle, think of a single word that goes with each to form a compound word (or word pair that functions as a compound word). For example, if the given words are *volley*, *field* and *bearing*, then the answer would be *ball*, because the word *ball* can be added to each of the other words to form *volleyball*, *ballfield* and *ball bearing*.

Set 1	Set 2	Set 3
BACK	BLEU	STOOL
SHORT	CAKE	POWDER
WATCH	COTTAGE	BALL

R

9 7 4 6 1 11 8 5 2 10 12 3

Solution to TRUE or FALSE: 1R, 2T, 3N, 4S, 5C, 6U, 7E, 8E, 9R, 10I, 11R, 12O. Secret word: RESURRECTION. **Solution to WORD ASSOCIATION:** Set 1 — Stop (backstop, shortstop, stopwatch); Set 2 — Cheese (bleu cheese, cheesecake, cottage cheese); Set 3 — Foot (footstool, foot powder, football).