

In a desolate place. St. Matthew notes it twice, for emphasis. Desolate. more than just the environment, but their condition. In a desolate place. Of course none of you can relate to that... I think we all can. Life is filled with a lot of desolate places. And the world's advice to you, "be who you are, follow your dreams, you deserve to be happy, listen to your heart, be more woke" will only leave you more desolate.

Are you safe? Life is fragile. Is it safe? Safe to come to church? The search for safety is an impossible pursuit. Life is not safe, never has been. Sin robbed us of every safety and now life is filled with constant risk, constant threats, a desolate world, a life with desolate moments.

What good might come from the current crisis? Perhaps to realize how misplaced your worries, for you are not safe, pretty hopeless, who sustains your life?

Jesus teaches you to not worry. Desolate, 5000 men plus women, children need food. They've nothing, nothing but Jesus. That is enough, more than enough. **They ate, were satisfied**

Yes, our eyes, our bellies might tell you to worry, worry over the virus news or what comes next and there will be a 'next' for you. The news, issues at home, what the doctors say, lots to worry about. But not Jesus. **Do not fear.** That's how Jesus talks.

Not that you ignore reality, ignore desolate conditions around you -it's just you have a different reality. Your neighbors worry, live in fear. Not you. You have an eternal perspective to life because He is your life amid desolate times.

Too often we listen to the devil, the world, media, even our own reason -there is much -not safe, much risk to life, even before a virus, we worry, we get scared. Repent.

Do you not realize who takes care of you, who provides all things in your desolate place, at desolate times. You are His. He died for you, given His life for you, how much more will He also give you all things in His kingdom.

Will things get worst, who knows, but how are you kept safe?

How do you live with risk and threats? Who sustains your very life? The Lord always satisfies. Shame on us for doubting His goodness. Shame on us for not being satisfied with what He gives. Think God isn't in control, not compassionate to work in your desolate times.

Luther said it well, "everything is a miracle." Miracles all around you. Miracles taking place countless times in your body and life everyday. What happens here, what happens this morning is a far greater feeding miracle beyond all thought.

Jesus still tells his pastors, you give them something to eat. I have nothing to offer you, I can only give you what's given to me, to give you. And Jesus give thanks today, distributes to you food of immortality, join Himself to you. There's always more. It never runs out. More works of His compassion; to care, sustain, keep you -in all risk, in desolate places.

In desolate places, in dark days, in good days, in tears or laughter, for your safety, amid countless risks to you, you don't need platitudes or protocols or a mask, you need Jesus. You need the bread of heaven, the Sacrament.

The feeding of the thousands isn't about simply filling their stomachs with miracle. This story is about you. About you and Jesus. Him feeding you. About receiving the goods of His life and death and resurrection -in very real means He declares to you, this miracle today, it is what Jesus says it does, does what Jesus says it does! as heaven and earth come together here as in no other way on earth. that you can be sure, you can know, from the hands of His servants, to sustain you in the desolate places of your life.

They all ate and were satisfied. filled with His grace and goodness, filled with His Word, Supper, His life, You could not be more safe. Your life secure. That you be filled satisfied in Him.