

Making Faith Connections - Cross of Hope Small Group Ministry
August 2, 2026
Point/Counter-point – Tenth Sunday after Pentecost (Lectionary 18)

Gathering and Check-in ... *share where you've encountered God this week.*

Prayer Glorious God, your generosity waters the world with goodness, and you cover creation with abundance. Awaken in us a hunger for the food that satisfies both body and spirit, and with this food fill all the starving world; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen. (ELW p43)

Introduction: In today's first reading God invites all who are hungry or thirsty to receive food and drink without cost. Jesus feeds the hungry multitude and reveals the abundance of God. At the eucharistic table we remember all who are hungry or poor in our world today. As we share the bread of life, we are sent forth to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again Matthew 14:13-21

- What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
- What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
- What does this story teach us about the life of faith?
- Where do we see the themes of hunger and feeding?
 - Why is it important to be fed spiritually?
 - Why is it important to be fed physically?
 - How are these two related?
- What is the role of community in this story?
 - What does this teach us about our own life of faith?
- Why are other people important to my faith?
- How does this story relate to our communion practice?

Read again Romans 9:1-5

- What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
- What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
- How is Paul relating the young church to its Jewish siblings and God's saving plan?
- What is the place of Christ in this relationship?
 - How does the grounding of our faith in Christ inform our inter-faith relationships?
- Why is inter-faith dialogue and understanding important today?
- What allows you to trust God when you do not fully understand?
- How does this passage speak toward an understanding of community?
- What is your role in God's blessing?

Read and reflect on Isaiah 55:1-5 and Psalm 145:8-9, 14-21 if you'd like.

Prayer Requests and Prayer