

# PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

## SUNDAY LITURGY



17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

25 July 2021 - Year B

***“Jesus gave the people all the food they wanted.”***

### Something to Think About

Have you ever felt really hungry? Sometimes we forget how lucky we are to have food to eat every day. In many places around the world, there is not enough food to go around. The next time someone gives you some food to eat, remember to thank that person – and say thanks to God too!

### The Story

The people travelled the countryside to see and hear Jesus. They were so eager to be near Jesus that they forgot to bring food. When they became hungry, Jesus turned 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish into enough food to feed thousands of people – and there were 12 baskets left over!

### The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to John

6:5-15

Jesus crossed Lake Galilee, which was also known as Lake Tiberias.

A large crowd had seen him work miracles to heal the sick, and those people went with him.

It was almost time for the Jewish festival of Passover, and Jesus went up on a mountain with his disciples and sat down.

When Jesus saw the large crowd coming toward him, he asked Philip, "Where will we get enough food to feed all these people?"

He said this to test Philip, since he already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered, "Don't you know that it would take almost a year's wages just to buy only a little bread for each of these people?"

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the disciples.

He spoke up and said, "There is a boy here who has five small loaves of barley bread and two fish. But what good is that with all these people?"

The ground was covered with grass, and Jesus told his disciples to have everyone sit down.

About five thousand men were in the crowd. Jesus took the bread in his hands and gave thanks to God. Then he passed the bread to the people, and he did the same with the fish, until everyone had plenty to eat. The people ate all they wanted, and Jesus told his disciples to gather up the leftovers, so that nothing would be wasted.

The disciples gathered them up and filled twelve large baskets with what was left over from the five barley loaves.

After the people had seen Jesus work this miracle, they began saying, "This must be the Prophet who is to come into the world!"

Jesus realised that they would try to force him to be their king.

So he went up on a mountain, where he could be alone.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Video

Click to watch the video: [Jesus Feeds the 5000](#)



## Group Discussion

To be 'hungry' is to be in need. In a simple way, children name some things people need to keep them alive, healthy and happy. Some people might be hungry for love, or warmth or friendship.

Invite children to name things they can do to help others and so 'feed' them. Leaders may choose to have a large drawing of a loaf of bread on which they record the children's suggestions. This could be placed in the prayer space and become a focus of children's prayer for the hungry people in the world.

## Praying For Others

*Leader:* Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

*Reader:* We pray that world and Church leaders will act with justice. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for the thousands of people who die of hunger each day. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray for the poor, the homeless and the sick. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Reader:* We pray that we will have generous hearts to share with others. Lord hear us.

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.*

**All: Lord hear our prayer.**

*Leader:* Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

## Prayer



Dear Jesus,  
Thank you for the food and drink we  
enjoy each day.  
Please bless those who are hungry,  
and help us to share what we have  
with others. Amen.

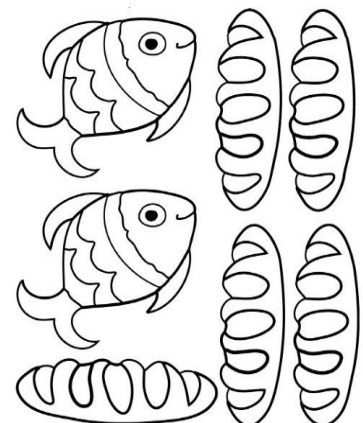
## Group Activity

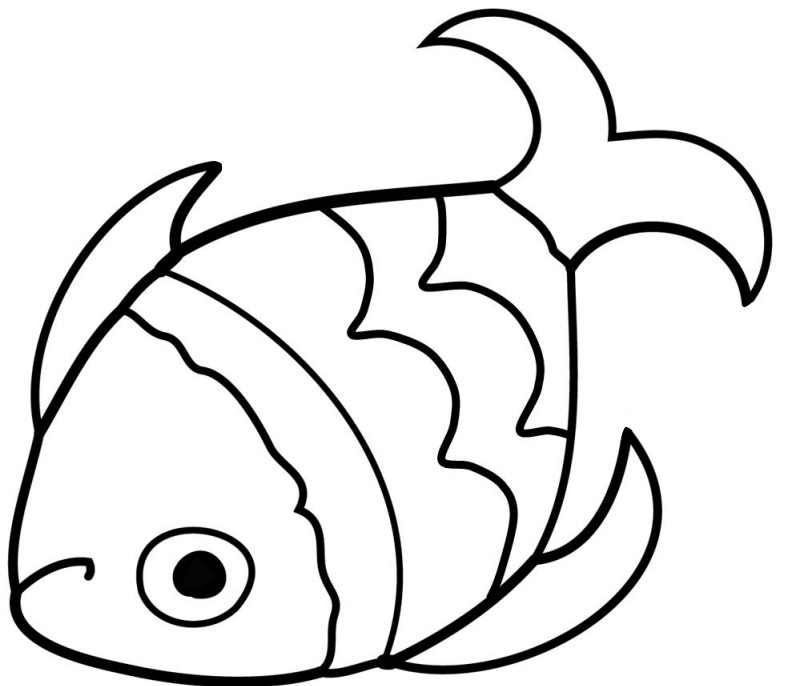
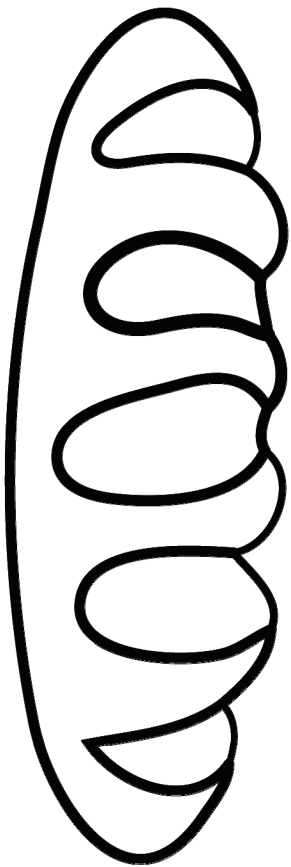
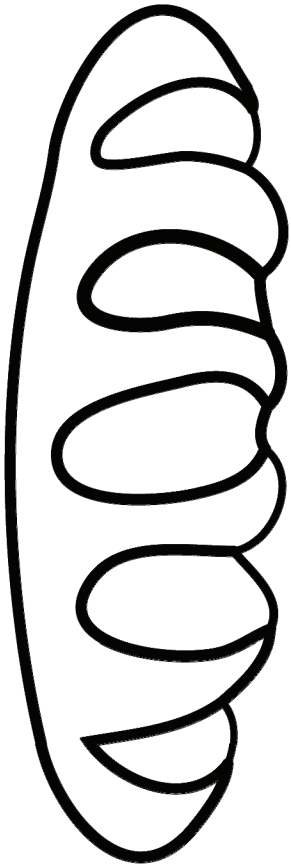
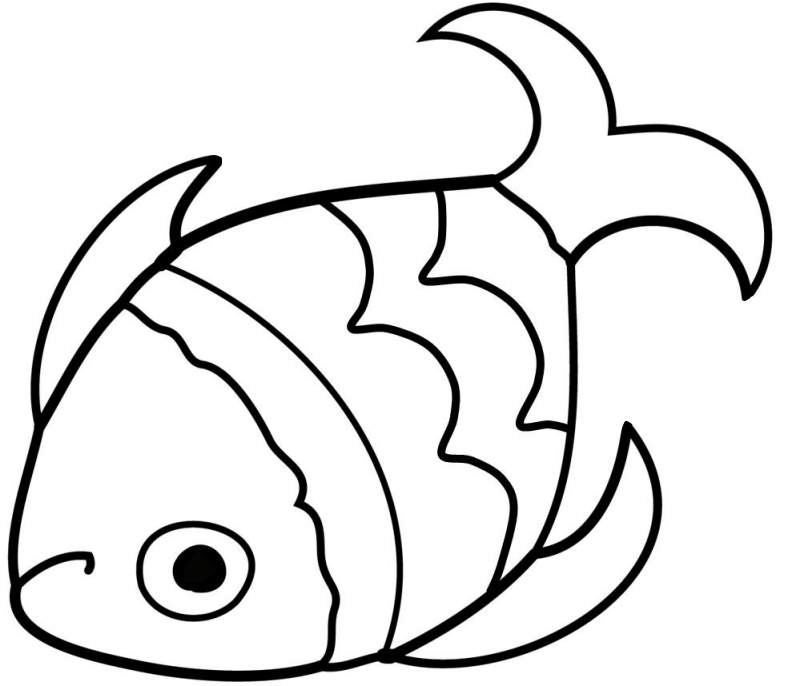
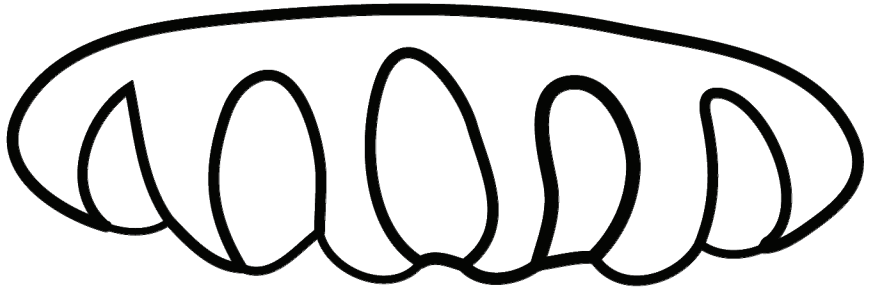
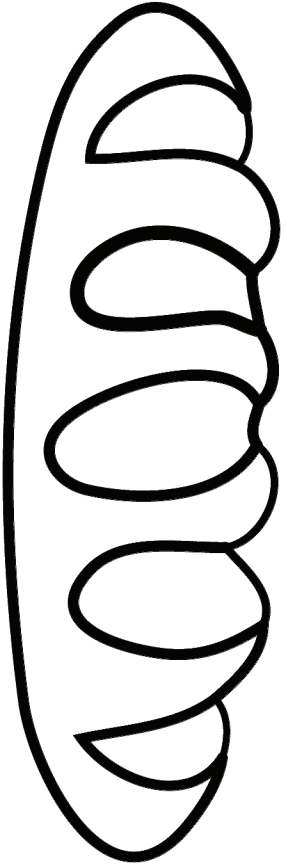
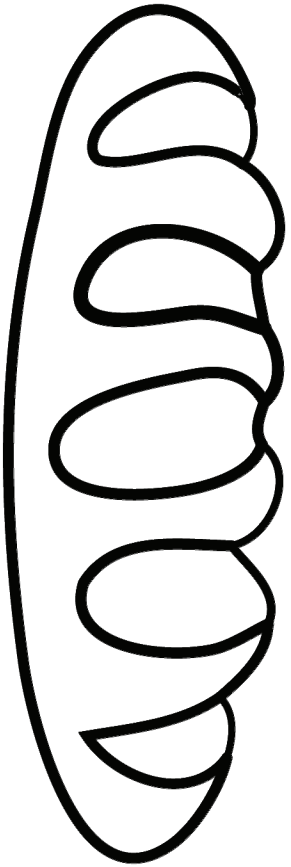
### FISH AND LOAVES

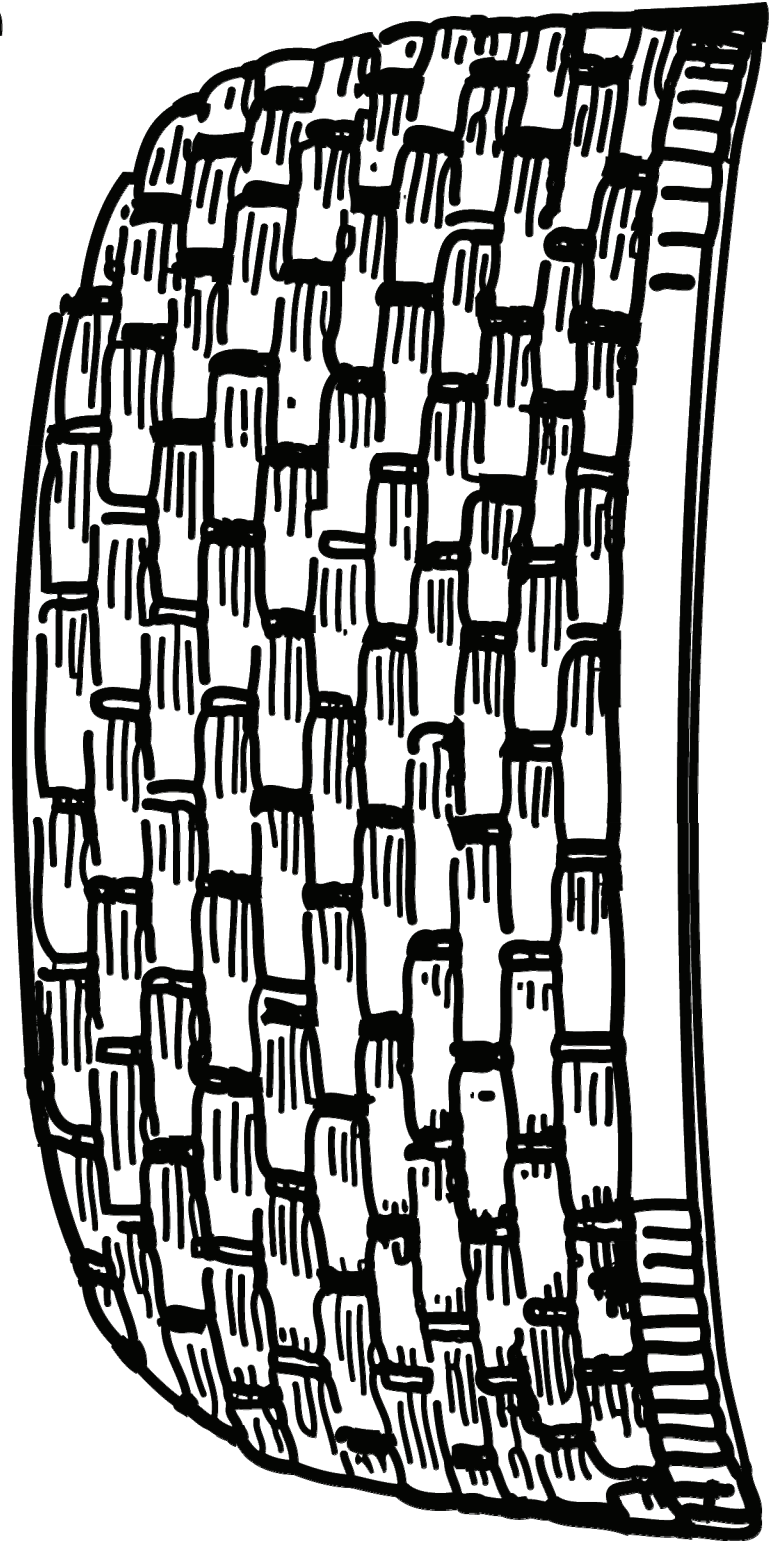
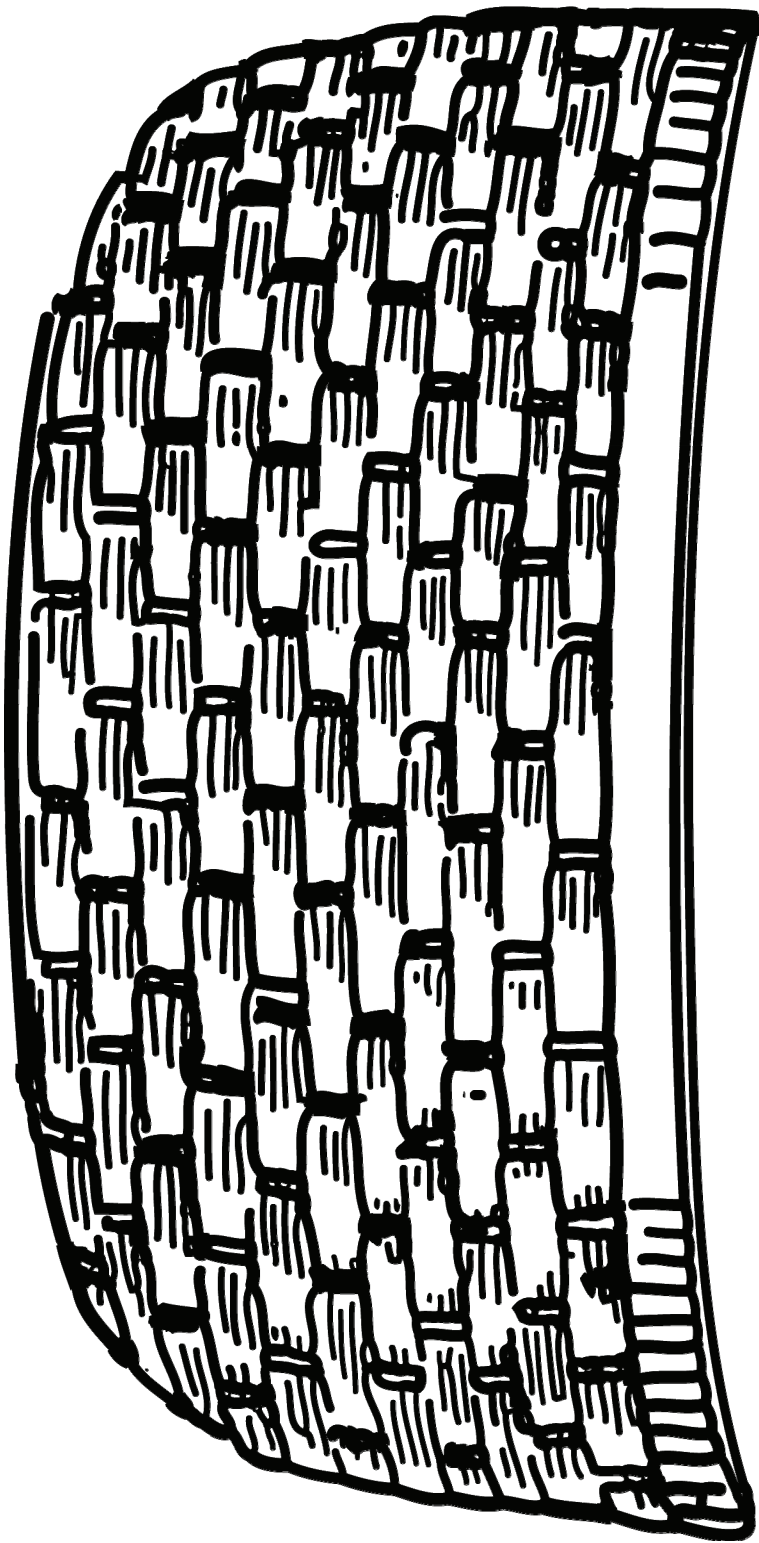
*You will need: template for each child, colouring pencils or crayons, scissors, glue, cardboard or construction paper.*

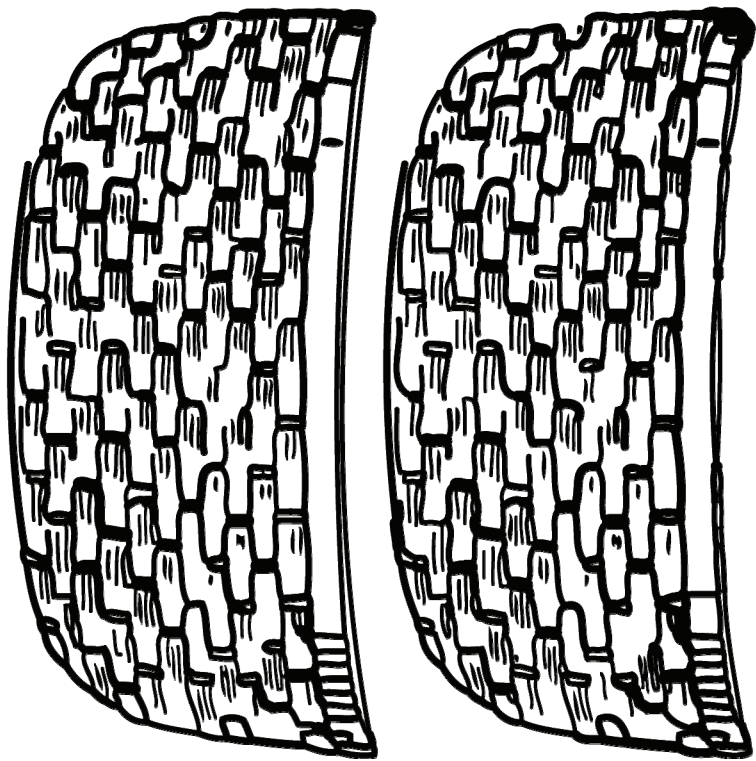
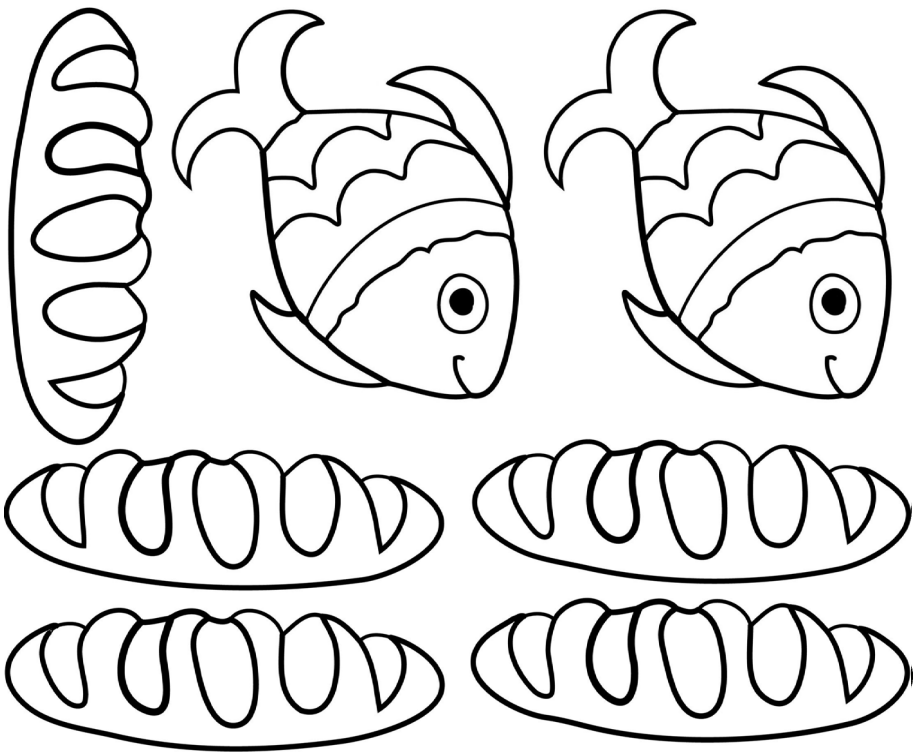
1. Print either the large or small template. (below)
2. Colour and cut out each piece.
3. Glue the fish and loaves behind the basket in a random order.
4. Glue the whole thing onto a piece of construction paper or card.
5. Cut out the whole figure.

If the small template is used, you can glue a magnet on the back after the children have coloured it.











**IMAGINE YOU ARE THE BOY WHO BROUGHT HIS LUNCH:  
FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH.**

**HOW DO YOU FEEL WHEN JESUS WANTS TO GIVE THEM AWAY?**

Write three things you are good at...

What could Jesus do with these three gifts?

**WITH SMALL GIFTS, JESUS CAN DO GREAT THINGS**