

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Luke 22:28-30

It is you who have stood by me in my trials; / and I confer a kingdom on you, says the Lord, / that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom.

Or: See how rich is the Saints' reward from God; / they died for Christ and will live for ever.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, who in your holy Martyrs
have wonderfully made known the mystery of the Cross,
graciously grant
that, drawing strength from this sacrifice,
we may cling faithfully to Christ
and labor in the Church for the salvation of all.
Through Christ our Lord.

Reflection

Unbridled Power

There's something about Gennesaret. Jesus healed many people in many different places before landing on these shores, but in Gennesaret Jesus pulls out all the stops and heals *everyone*. Jesus doesn't seem to monitor his power output here like he did with the woman who was healed of a twelve-year hemorrhage (Mark 5:25-34). Healing is yours for the taking in Gennesaret. It's a striking contrast to Nazareth, where the people's lack of faith blocked Jesus' power.

Why was Gennesaret so different? No mention is made of the people's faith; we know only that they, like everyone, are excited by miracles. As for Jesus, we know he had earlier dismissed the crowds and his disciples so he could rest and

reboot. After praying alone on the mountain, he intended to pass by the disciples in the boat. But when the disciples saw Jesus and cried out, he rejoined them. And when the crowds in Gennesaret recognized Jesus and pursued him, he made himself available to them too.

I am most moved in this passage by Jesus' perseverance. Again and again, he offers himself and whatever strength he has to God's people. In Gennesaret, God apparently takes that self-offering and multiplies it, just as he multiplied the loaves and fishes. How else to explain Jesus' extraordinary, unbridled power here? As many as touched "only the tassel on his cloak" were instantly cured.

It's a good image for those times when we, too, are exhausted by the endless needs of God's people. When rest is impossible and the crowd presses in, may the mighty God made manifest in Gennesaret cloak us with fresh spiritual power.

..... Alicia von Stamwitz

Alicia von Stamwitz, a retreat leader and author living in St. Louis, was an editor with Liguori Publications for 27 years and traveled internationally promoting lay leadership in Redemptorist ministries.