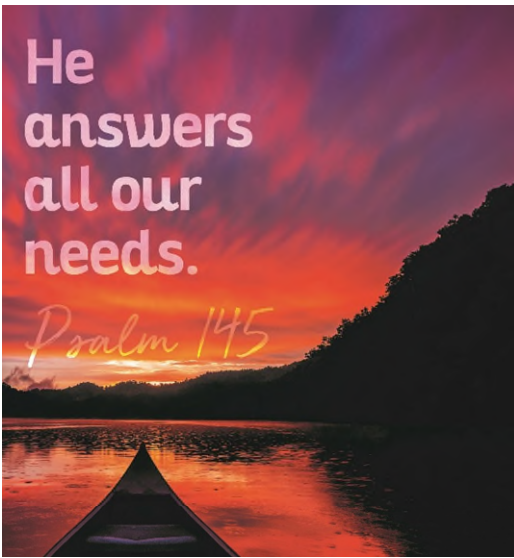


Dear Brothers and Sisters



Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again in the mountain alone.” These are the words which conclude today’s gospel. Why should they desire to make Christ their king, we may ask? Because they got a free dinner. If I was present, I could have done the same. All of us can fall into this temptation, to side with Jesus when he fulfills our material, physical needs. When he does our will. This is missing all together the point why Christ did what he did, why Christ came, what is his mission.

That’s why the next day, people will continue to search for Jesus until they found him. Jesus will reveal what is in their hearts: “You are looking for me not because you saw the signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves”, Jesus will tell them. Jesus will continue to tell them: “Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of man will give you (Jn 6, 26f).”

Whatever Christ did, whatever miracle he did were signs to bring home one message: "The Kingdom of God is here, is at hand and it comes with him". That is, he is the Messiah, the anointed, one sent by God for our redemption. And what is this food which endures to eternal life? It is Jesus himself, who will give himself up for us to death on the cross, resurrect and will remain with us in the Eucharist.' By believing in him and eating his body and drinking his blood slowly we acquire eternal life. This does not mean, he doesn't care about our physical needs, he does. That's why he said: “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink or about your body what you will wear...your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be given to you as well (Mt.6, 25f).” Let us pray that this word will be fulfilled in us.

*Fr. Siffredus*