

"His disciples [asked] Him, 'How can one satisfy these people with bread here in the wilderness?' He asked them, 'How many loaves do you have?' And they said, 'Seven.' So He commanded the multitude to sit down on the ground. And He took the seven loaves and **gave thanks**, broke *them* and gave *them* to His disciples to set before *them*; and they set *them* before the multitude. They also had a few small fish; and having **blessed** them, He said to set them also before *them*. So they ate and were filled, and they took up seven large baskets of leftover fragments. Now those who had eaten were about four thousand." (Mark 8:1-10)

"In the Word '**a wilderness**' can mean that which is sparsely inhabited and cultivated, or it can mean that which is totally uninhabited and uncultivated, and so is used in two senses. When it means that which is sparsely inhabited and cultivated...it means that thing or those persons who, compared with others, have **little life and light**.... When however it means that which is totally uninhabited and uncultivated...it means those who have undergone **vastation** as regards good and **desolation** as regards truth." (Secrets of Heaven 2708:9)

"Since the state of ignorance of truth...is signified by a '**wilderness**,' and the desire for truth by '**hunger**,' and instruction by the Lord by '**feeding**,' it came to pass that the Lord withdrew into the wilderness, and there taught the multitude that sought Him, and afterwards fed them.... 'Wilderness' signifies the state of those who are in **temptations**, because in them truths and goods are shut in by the falsities and evils that come forth and are presented to the mind." (Apocalypse Explained 730:30)

"Because '**seven**' and 'seven times' signified **all things and fullness**, the following commands were given: ... Also by the fact that four thousand people were satisfied by seven loaves and that seven basketful remained." (Apocalypse Explained 257:9)

"**'Blessing**,' when said of the Lord, signifies **thanksgiving** that from Him is every good of love and truth of faith, and thence heaven and eternal happiness to those who receive.... That **the Lord blessed the bread, wine, and fishes** that He gave to the disciples and to the people, signified communication of His Divine, and thus conjunction with them by means of the goods and truths, which are signified by the 'bread and wine,' and also by 'the fishes;' 'bread and wine' signifying goods and truths in the spiritual self, and 'fishes' goods and truths in the natural." (Apocalypse Explained 340:1,23)

"**'To eat**' signifies in the spiritual sense to receive in the will and to do, from which is conjunction... The Lord's **feeding**...**four thousand** people from seven loaves and a few fishes ...was done because previously the Lord had been teaching them, and they had received and appropriated to themselves His doctrine; this is what they ate spiritually; therefore natural eating followed, that is, flowed in out of heaven." (Apocalypse Explained 617:4)

"A single object divided in two, and the two parts then brought together or given each to the other, means **the Lord and humanity joined together**. ... The like was also represented by the Lord **when He broke bread**." (Secrets of Heaven 9416:2)

"Oh, **give thanks** to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." (Psalm 106:1)

# "Feeding the 4000"

## An Informal Thanksgiving Service

### November 21, 2021

### Rev Solomon Keal

For the Beauty of the Earth ..... 16  
 Lord it is Good ..... 50  
 Seek Only ..... 70  
 Come and Praise ..... 72  
*(Children light the candles)*  
 Thank You Lord ..... 200

#### Welcome from the Pastor

O Give Thanks ..... 199

#### Opening of the Word

#### Offertory

#### Readings and Talk

Loaves and Fishes ..... 154

#### Lord's Prayer

#### Benediction

The First Fruits ..... (Thanksgiving Book) 11

*(Children put out the Candles)*

#### Discussion

#### Closing of the Word

#### Thanks and Announcements

**"Please join us on Zoom at 11:00am Sunday  
for a discussion."**

**Informal Service Pastor:** Rev. Solomon Keal

**Music Director:** Graham Bier

**Musicians:** Song Leader- Lori Odhner

Singers- Katie Odhner, Mandy Rogers, Julie Conaron, John

Odhner, Keyboard- Ben Rogers Petro

**Sound Technician** - Keith Genzlinger

**Livestreaming** - Frank Stanley & John Giannopoulos

"As we all know, **social lunches and dinners** are customary everywhere.... For many people they serve to build friendship or promote **family togetherness**; they serve for enjoyment, ... and for **showing gratitude**." (True Christianity 433)

"In the Ancient Church **bread was broken** when it was given to another, by which action was meant the sharing of what was one's own and the passing of good from oneself to another to be their own. Thus it meant making love mutual. For when someone breaks bread and gives it to another they are sharing with them what is their own. Or when a loaf is broken and shared among many, the single loaf becomes one shared mutually by all, and all are consequently joined together through charity. **The breaking of bread was a sign that meant mutual love**. ... 'Bread' means the good of love, and this explains why...taking the seven loaves and the fish, **giving thanks**, Jesus broke and gave them to His disciples, and the disciples to the crowd." (Secrets of Heaven 5405)

"**'And the feast of ingathering**...' means the **worship of a thankful mind** on account of the implanting of good... and so on account of regeneration.... This is clear from the meaning of '**the feast**' as worship of the Lord and **thanksgiving**... and so the worship of a thankful mind." (Secrets of Heaven 9296)

"The Lord does, it is true, demand humility, worship, **thanksgiving**, and much else from a person, which seem like repayment, so that His gifts do not seem to be free. But the Lord does not demand those things for His own sake... rather, they are required for our own sake, for if we possess humility [and gratitude] we are able to accept good from the Lord, since in that case we have been parted from self-love and its evils which stand in the way of our accepting it. Therefore **the Lord desires a state of thanksgiving in a person for that person's sake, because the Lord can flow in with heavenly good when that state exists in them**." (Secrets of Heaven 5957)