What do you hunger for most in life? The answer: “salvation.” At some point in our lives it happens. A light shines in the darkness and we discover that this light is a person. His name is Jesus. He alone makes sense of who we are, why we’re here and where we’re going. We’re here because we hunger for Jesus. What happened after Jesus performed the miracle of the multiplication of loaves and fish? The people wanted to make Him king. Jesus flees. Why? The people didn’t get it! The people wanted a Savior but not in the way God was going to deliver. The people wanted a new King David, a political messiah, someone who would liberate Israel from oppressors. Jesus gave them food to eat. And this is how politics worked in His day as it many times works in our present day, “He feeds our bellies, let’s make Him king”. Jesus didn’t want to be a political savior. The tyranny Jesus wants to liberate us from is our spiritual slavery to sin and death.

What are you hungry for? There are three moments that must not be overlooked. First, Jesus commands us to not work for food that perishes but for food that endures for eternal life. Beg another question: what motivates us to go to work each day? The paycheck? Buy nice things? Better society? Provide for family? These are all good things, but at the end of the day, there’s something ultimately nagging and wanting about these good things. If I buy something nice, that’s great, but it will be outdated soon. If I work for the betterment of society, I can feel pretty good about that provided my motivation is right. What do I mean by that? Let’s take a quick poll: How many people here know who the president of the United States was 100 years ago (William G. Harding)? How many people know who the Pope was 100 years ago (Pope Benedict XV). The question becomes: if few people can remember who the Pope or President was 100 years ago, how many people are going to remember us 100 years from now, no matter what we accomplished for the betterment of society? This shouldn’t stop us from wanting to better society. To be a disciple of Jesus demands that we do so. The motivation though shouldn’t be to get a plaque on the wall. Jesus commands us: don’t work for food that perishes, work for food that endures for eternal life. This leads us to the second important moment that must not be overlooked. How do we accomplish works of God that endure for eternal life? Let’s take parents who work to provide food and clothing for their family. If they do so because they love their family, this is a very good thing. But children eventually grow up and leave home. Few of us even know the names of our ancestors who lived a hundred years ago. This begs the question, a hundred years from now who will remember our names? But there’s hope once we realize there’s a better question we could be asking: will they know Jesus? I never met my ancestors who lived a hundred years ago. I only know some of their names. But I know them because of the faith they passed down to me over the generations. A hundred years from now, our descendants might not know us personally, but they will know us if we’re successful at passing on the faith. If you understand how a few hundred Christians, 2000 years ago, have become over a billion Christians today, then you understand the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. When we pass down our faith, this is work that produces eternal treasure. This leads to the most important moment that must not be overlooked. Jesus said, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” The Eucharist is the food that endures forever. Jesus is the heavenly king who established His throne on the cross for our salvation. Jesus is the divine king who loves us so much that He gives His very body and blood to become food for the journey that leads us to everlasting life. The people asked Jesus, “Sir, give us this bread always”. God has answered our prayers.