

Church of the divine Love

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 7

JUNE 23, 2024 9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Job 38:1-11**

Psalm 107:1-3, 23-32

Second Lesson: **2 Corinthians 6:1-13**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Mark 4:35-41**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 367

Hymn during Consecration (printed on insert)

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn #

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday June 23, 2024

1 Samuel 17:57-18:5,10-16; Psalm 133; 2 Corinthians 6:1-13; Mark 4:35-41.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Jesus and his disciples are crossing the Sea of Galilee. They are moving from the Jewish side to the Gentile side, the side where they are at home to the side where they are strangers, the side where life is familiar to the side where it is new, different, and unfamiliar. We may have never crossed the Sea of Galilee but we've been in that boat.

This is not just a story about the weather and a boat trip. It is a story about life. It's a story about faith. It's a story about fear. Wherever you find one of those you will find all three. They cannot be separated. Sometimes the sea of life is rough. The wind is strong. The waves are high. The boat is taking on water and sinking. We all know what that is like. Each of us could tell a storm story. Some of our stories will begin with a phone call, a doctor's visit, or news we did not want to hear. Some of them will start with the choices we have made, our mistakes, and our sins. Other stories will tell about the difficulty of relationships, hopes and plans that fell apart, or the struggle to grow up and find our way. Some storms seem to arise out of nowhere and take us by surprise. Other storms build and brew as we watch.

Storms happen. Storms of loss and sorrow. Storms of suffering. Storms of confusion. Storms of failure. Storms of loneliness. Storms of disappointment and regret. Storms of depression. Storms of uncertainty and second guessing, Storms of thoughts and voices. Regardless of when or how they arise storms are about changing conditions. Life is overwhelming and out of control. Things don't go our way. Circumstances seem too much for us to handle. Order gives way to chaos. We are sinking. The water is deep and the new shore is a distant horizon.

The disciples are quick to make the storm about Jesus. "Do you not care that we are perishing?" We've probably all echoed their words in the storms of our lives. "Do something. Fix it. Make it better." In the midst of the storm Jesus seems absent, passive, uncaring. How can he sleep at a time like this? Sleeping Jesus is not what they or we want. Sleeping Jesus, however, is in the same boat and the same storm as the disciples. He is surrounded by the same water as the disciples, blown by the same wind, beaten by the same waves. His response, however, is different. While disciples fret and worry, he sleeps. The disciples want busyness and activity. Jesus sleeps in peace and stillness. His sleep reveals that the greater storm and the real threat is not the wind, waves, and water around us – the circumstances in which we find ourselves – but within us. The real storm, the more threatening storm is always the one that churns and rages within us.

That interior storm is the one that blows us off course, beats against our faith, and threatens to drown us. Fear, vulnerability, and powerlessness blow within us. The sense of abandonment, the unknown, judgment and criticism of ourselves and others are the waves that pound us. Too often anger, isolation, cynicism, or denial become our shelter from the storm. "Peace! Be still!" Jesus speaks to the wind and the sea. Jesus isn't changing the weather as much as inviting the disciples to change. He's speaking to the wind and the waves within them. The disciples have been pointing to what is going on outside them. Jesus now points to what is going on inside them. "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?"

Jesus' words are more about us than the circumstances of our lives, the storms we meet. Storms happen. Faith, more faith, better faith, stronger faith, the right kind of faith do not eliminate the storms of our lives. Faith does not change the storm. It changes us. Faith does not take us around the storm but through the storm. Faith allows us to see and know that Jesus is there with us. Faith is what allows us to

be still, to be peaceful, in the midst of the storm. It means we do not have to interiorize the storm. Ultimately, the journey across to the other side is the journey of change, of transformation. Sometimes the changes are welcome and sought out. Other times they are the last thing we wanted. Regardless of the circumstances under which our journey across to the other side begins, we almost always encounter stormy seas.

Mark tells us that “a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped” (Mk. 4:37). Mark is not, however, simply describing the weather conditions that day. He is describing the interior condition of the disciples. The real storm is churning within them. It is the feeling of vulnerability, being powerless, the fear of an unknown future, the sense of being abandoned, forgotten, and uncared for. Those are spiritual conditions – windstorms that blow us off course, waves that beat against our faith and trust, water that can drown life. They are real. I suspect, every one of us could name the times we have gone across to the other side and the storms we encountered.

In the midst of the storm the temptation is to believe that if we can just get out of the storm, get to the other side, then everything will be okay. Is not that what the disciples are saying to Jesus? “Wake up. Do you not care about us? We are perishing. Do something. Fix it. Make it better.” They are living with the illusion that God is absent, asleep on the job. Jesus responds to the disciples, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” Faith, however, does not mean that all will turn out as we wish. Faith means that regardless of what happens all shall be and is well. Faith recognizes that in the midst of the storm God is present and we have never been abandoned, forgotten, or left uncared for. Faith does not change the storms of life but it can and does change us. The Spirit of God blows through and within us more mightily than the winds of any storm. The power of God is stronger than any wave that beats against us. The love of God is deeper than any water that threatens to drown us. In every storm Jesus is present and his response is always the same, “Peace! Be still!”

In every storm there are choices to be made. Will we interiorize the storm or Jesus’ peace? Do we put our faith in the power of the storm or in the power of God in Christ? Call upon Christ, for yourself, for your family, for your church, and for our world. And he will answer, in his own good time. He is with us, always, and he will not allow us to perish in the storm. One day, all of the storms of life will end. The sea will be peaceful and calm forevermore. Until then, we can count on storms. Life will continue to be difficult. But through it all, we can hold onto this one amazing truth: That Jesus cares for us so much, he is willing to get in the boat with us. He is willing to die for us. To perish, so that we do not have to. His answer to the disciples’ question, “Do you not care?” Is always yes. Jesus cares, and that is all that matters. It is what gives us peace in the midst of any storm. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 7

	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	
MONDAY	8:30 PM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:30 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 8

	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	
		Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister		Roe Prosser	Anthony Giordano
Coffee		Nolans	Dana Kenn

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Manetta Family	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
John Mulligan	John Rocco	Judy
Warren	Donna A.	Kristen
Christopher	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Jerry & Family	Phil Ryder	Henry
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Robert Hosey	Beverly Noel	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Ciara
Mary & Family	Ann Turco	Jan
Grace Schinella	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Marjorie Guerrier.	Joseph
Nathan Treadwell	Alexandra Goldman	Evelyn

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster
 Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.
 Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email
 Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart, and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions and glory, now and for ever. Amen

