

Church of the Divine Love

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

THE SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY

MAY 12, 2024 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 1:15-17, 21-26**

Psalm 1

Second Lesson: **1 John 5:9-13**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **John 17:6-19**

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 #

Sermon Sunday May 12, 2024

Acts 1:15-17,21-26; Psalm 1; 1 John 5:9-13; John 17: 6-19.

Sisters and brothers in the faith,

In today's gospel Jesus is praying. He's not talking to the disciples and he's not talking to us. He's not teaching and he's not giving instructions. He's praying, and we're listening in. And what a prayer it is.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us honor and uplift all mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures in our lives. Let us express our love, our gratitude for the nurturing care that mothers provide unconditionally and appreciation for their immeasurable contributions and their enduring impact on our

lives. They face life's trials with courage and resilience, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration. May we strive to embody the same love, sacrifice, strength, and nurturing spirit that define the essence of motherhood. In doing so, we honor the heart of motherhood and pay tribute to the timeless bond between a mother and her child. May God bless all mothers and grant them love, joy, and peace on this special day and always. Happy Mother's Day to our noble mothers!

What do you hear in Jesus' prayer? I'm not just asking about what he prays for. I'm asking about what's behind his prayer. What's going on in him? What's his prayer really about? I ask those questions because one of the things I know about prayer is that we never simply offer our words. Instead, our words are an offering of ourselves and the circumstances of our lives. There's always more going on than the words we say. They are just the tip of the iceberg, an outward and audible sign of some inner stuff. And I think that's true for Jesus in today's gospel (John 17:6-19).

It's the night of the last supper. Jesus has washed the disciples' feet. A final meal has been shared. He's told them he's leaving. The end is near. Judas left the table and went out into the night. According to John, Jesus is "troubled in spirit." He knows his friends will abandon him. "You will leave me alone," he tells them. Peter will deny him three times. Thomas doesn't know the way. Philip wants to see the Father. And Jesus feels the world's hate. No wonder Jesus' prayer is rambling and circuitous, confusing, repetitious, and hard to understand. I suspect that's less about the prayer and more about what's going on in Jesus. Haven't you had times like that? Haven't there been times when your prayer was rambling and unclear, back and forth, contradictory, moving all over the place like those little crazy ants on the kitchen counter.

I think that happens on those nights when it seems everything is on the line and we can't tell if things are falling into place or falling apart. They are those circumstances that call everything into question. They are times when we wonder what we've really accomplished. Did we make a difference? Was it worth it? What's my life really about? They are times when we are overwhelmed by joy or devastated by loss and grief. They are those times when we're trying to get clarity about ourselves and come to terms with our life. Who are we? What do we do now? Do we have what it takes?

They are the transition points, thresholds moments, and circumstances when we're trying to make sense of ourselves and our life. We're working out our life and struggling to be authentic, faithful, and whole. I think that's what we see and hear in Jesus' prayer today. He's not as different from us as we often think or sometimes want him to be. Today we see the human Jesus standing in solidarity with us and our humanity. Today we see the human Jesus working out his life. And who here today doesn't know what that's like? So, tell me this. What are you working out and struggling with today? And what is your prayer in all that? I can't tell you what to do. I don't have your answers. But maybe today's gospel offers a way forward. What strikes me in today's gospel is not what Jesus does, but what he doesn't do. He doesn't isolate or close in on himself. He doesn't get angry or resentful. He doesn't resist or fight back. He

doesn't run away or try to escape. He doesn't complain about or deny the reality of what is happening. He doesn't blame others. He doesn't give up. And he doesn't search for an answer to fix it all.

Instead, he faces his life. He's doing his own inner work. He acknowledges what has happened. He names his reality. He stays in touch with his humanity. He speaks from the heart. He feels what he feels. He grieves. He weeps. He gathers with his friends. He's concerned for others. He prays. He lives – and dies – with an openness to a future he cannot control. Do you remember Peter's famous attempt to walk on water? He did it, for a few steps. We can live in this world on our own for a little while. But then he noticed the storm, and the waves, and he began to sink. It happens to us all, eventually. When Peter began to sink, he cried out to Jesus: "Lord, save me." And "Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him" (Matthew 14:31). Jesus wants nothing more than to reach out his hand and save us and all this world. And that is what he has done for us.

And now, that we have made our way onto his lifeboat, now that we have been saved from this world by Jesus, he sends us back into the world. The words of this prayer immediately after "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth" are these: "As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world." We have been sent into the world, in the same way that Jesus was sent into the world. Not to save the world, of course. But to introduce the savior to the world. To remind the world of God's undying love for all this world. This is the truth that anchors us in the storms of life, and that fills us with hope and faith. It is the truth that makes our joy complete, in the beautiful words of this prayer. It is the truth, our shared, objective truth, that has a name, and his name is Jesus.

Jesus. Our way, our truth, and our life. Who loves us, who died for us, and who prays for us. Then and now. Praying that we would be protected from evil. Praying that we would be one. And praying that we would be so secure in his truth, that we would be able to rescue those around us, who are struggling to find a truth on which to rest, and to build a life of meaning and hope. Jesus is that truth. And he asks that we share it with the world. Let us do so faithfully, to the glory of God. **Amen.**

7 EASTER:THE: SUNDAY AFTER ASCENSION DAY

	10:15 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	

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	Carol K.
Mary & Family	Ciara	Jan
Grace Schinella	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Marjorie Guerrier.	Joseph
Nathan Treadwell	Alexandra Goldman	

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.

The departed: Jean Estenvil Quatorze

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

