

**Church of the Divine Love**  
**SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 19**

**SEPTEMBER 12, 2021**

**10:15 A.M.**

**HOLY BAPTISM & HOLY EUCHARIST**

**RITE II**

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #525, vs 1,4,5 – **The Church's one foundation**

Opening Acclamation page 299

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

Prayer At Baptism page 203

First Lesson: **Isaiah 50:4-9a**

**Psalm 116:1-8**

Second Lesson: **James 3:1-12**

Gradual Hymn #671, vs 1,2,5,1 – **Amazing grace! how sweet the sound**

Gospel: **Mark 8:27-38**

Sermon - The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

HOLY BAPTISM

The Presentation of the Candidate page 301

The Examination of the Candidate page 302

The Baptismal Covenant page 304

Prayers for the Candidate page 305

Thanksgiving over the Water page 306

The Baptism of Lucas Benett Capozzelli-Garcia

The Peace

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #294 – **Baptized in water**

Doxology - Hymn #380, verse 3

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer A	page 361
Sanctus - S-130 in hymnal	
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #657 – <b>Love divine, all loves excelling</b>	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #490 – <b>I want to walk as a child of the light</b>	

### **Sermon Sunday September 12, 2021**

Isaiah 50: 4-9a; Psalm 116: 1-8; James 3: 1-12; Mark 8: 27-38

#### **Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

Peter is confessed Jesus as the Messiah. He has a particular story about who the Messiah is and what the Messiah should do and be about. Who doesn't? Jesus, however, is about to undo and rewrite Peter's story. "The Son of Man," he says, "must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." So much for Peter's understanding of the Messiah. That's neither what he expected nor what he wanted. So, he takes Jesus aside and rebukes him, as if he knows more and better than Jesus. In Matthew's version of this story, we hear what Peter says to Jesus. "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you" (Mt. 16:22).

Can you see and hear Peter's disillusionment? Peter confesses and Peter rebukes, all with the same tongue in the same conversation. He's speaking with a forked tongue, or as a friend of mine says, out of both sides of his mouth. It's what James is describing in today's epistle (James 3:1-12). A moral teacher and nothing more. In fact, Jesus is a great teacher, but He is so much more. There are all kinds of opinions about Jesus that get part of the truth, but don't get the main truth of who Jesus is. In our disillusionment we often put our story in front of God's story, give more credence to what we see than what God sees, and take our story to be more real than God's story. Isn't that what Peter has done? Isn't that what's going on in the conflicts we have with another, in the times we assert ourselves and negate another, in our words and actions of violence? In our panicked arrogance we can easily and quickly betray ourselves, each other, and God.

Then Jesus asked the disciples, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ." Peter got the words exactly right. Jesus is the Christ. This is the foundation sentence of the creeds. When we properly confess Jesus as the Christ, we have properly confessed our salvation. The

interesting thing about the rest of the Gospel that we heard this morning is that the reading goes on to show that Peter did not understand what he said. Although Peter got the words exactly right, He didn't know what they meant. How do we know that? Well, first of all, Jesus strictly charged them to tell no one about him. You would think that Jesus would want everyone to know His true identity.

Nevertheless, He strictly charged the disciples not to tell anyone. He was stern. Keep this information to yourself.

Then Jesus began to explain the true meaning of Peter's confession to the disciples. He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. This is what it means for Jesus to be the Christ. It means suffering, death, and resurrection. It means dying on the cross in order to take away our sins, and it means rising from the dead. If we are to have the right Jesus, it must be the Jesus who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead. If your Jesus did not do these things, then you have the wrong Jesus. Apparently, Peter got it wrong. Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him. Don't let that word rebuke fool you. Peter is ready to give Jesus a good tongue-lashing, to bawl Him out. Peter is ready to read Jesus the riot act. Let me remind you that Peter is a fisherman who is only about halfway through his seminary training and Jesus is God in the flesh. Nevertheless, Peter takes it upon himself to scold the Son of God.

Today we will baptize a child, Lucas, we won't pour over his head a promise of safety and security. We pour over his head the promise of unconditional value and love in the midst of a world that can sometimes tell us otherwise. We mark him with a cross that says his life is no longer his own, but it has been claimed by God. That God will be with him all the days of his life. In your baptism, you have been marked with the cross of Christ. In baptism and in blessing, you, each and every one of you, have been claimed by God. God has stamped you with a cross that will not wash off or wear out. So, take up your cross – that cross – and follow me, Jesus says, into a desperate and dangerous world, filled with suffering and pain. That's where I will be, God says, and I need you there too. Bringing about peace, mercy, and justice. Take up your cross and follow me.

Jesus reveals a God who is angry at injustice and oppression and exploitation – also called sin. God is generous and understands that humans are weak and broken, that we are damaged by the sinful systems in which we live; therefore, God is abundantly forgiving, always, always willing to receive us when we turn back to God, always ready to welcome us home. Jesus immediately saw the danger to Peter, and He rebuked Peter right back. Turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." Jesus' words teach us that not only was Peter's understanding wrong, but Peter was even acting as an agent of Satan. Peter was actually tempting Jesus to abandon His mission to the cross to abandon His mission to die for our sins. This exchange between Jesus and Peter should be a warning to us as well. Peter's master had just told him that He was to suffer and die. It is very likely that Peter not only considered Jesus to be his master, but also a close friend. Who would want a friend to suffer and die? Peter, in his ignorance, was responding in the way that he thought was best. I can empathize with Peter. I can understand why Peter did what he did. Nevertheless, Peter was wrong, and Jesus scolded him severely.

How often do we make decisions based on what seems right to us instead of checking in the Word of God? How often do we assume things about God without checking the words that He Himself gave us?

How often do we, like Peter, proceed in the way that we think is best and forget that God may have something totally different for us? How often do we follow in Peter's footsteps? How glad we can be that Jesus didn't listen to Peter. Jesus followed up on His promise. He went to Jerusalem and there the elders and the chief priests and the scribes did exactly what He said they would do. They arrested Jesus and held a mock trial. Then they took Jesus to Pontius Pilate and used political pressure to have Him crucified. Jesus died just as He said He would and then He also rose ... just as He said He would. Jesus did all this in order to take away our sin and give us His righteousness instead. Because Jesus did not listen to Peter, but followed through on His plan, we now have forgiveness, life, and salvation.

When we talk about Jesus, it is very important that we talk about the right Jesus, the Jesus who suffered many things, was rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and died and after three days rose again. The only Christ who can save us for eternity is the true Christ, the Christ crucified and risen from the dead. It is in this Christ and this Christ alone that we have eternal life. **Amen!**

#### 16 PENTECOST

10:15 AM HOLY BAPTISM & HOLY EUCHARIST, II (also on zoom)

#### MONDAY

8:00 AM AA MEETING

#### WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

#### THURSDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM AA MEETING

#### SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

#### 17 PENTECOST

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

Heavenly Father,

We come together to lift up and pray for the families and loved ones of those who lost their lives on September 11th. Lord, their lives will never be forgotten, and our hearts go out to those who lost someone dear from the events of that day. Those left behind were robbed of such important and valuable people, Lord. Please comfort them as this anniversary returns yet again. Be present among them in their grief, and Lord, we pray that those surrounding them would offer kindness where they can. That they would be able to celebrate the precious lives of those who died with honor. May sweet memories of good times be shared and recalled, and may there be a sense of peace in knowing they do not grieve their loss alone. Please bless them with Your love this day. We call to you now in our remembrance, God of justice and of peace. Give us a will to truly pray that your Kingdom may come on earth just like it is in heaven. In Jesus name. Amen.

### **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Girard Bishop	People of Haiti	Dorothy
Nathan Treadwell	John Loubengeiger	Del
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Julia
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	James
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Victims of Wildfires	Victims of Terrorism
Edward Lent & Family	Christopher & Family	

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

