**Church of the Divine Love**

**LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**CHRIST THE KING**

**PROPER 29**

**NOVEMBER 20, 2002 10:15 AM**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

 THE WORD OF GOD

 Prayer before Worship – on insert

 Processional Hymn **#**

Opening Acclamation page 355

 Collect for Purity page 355

 Gloria page 356

 Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

 First Lesson: **Jeremiah 23:1-6**

 Psalm 46

Second Lesson: **Colossians 1:11-20**

Gradual Hymn **#**

 Gospel: **Luke 23:33-43**

 Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

 Nicene Creed page 358

 Prayers of the People, FormIV page 388

 Prayer for Storms and Hurricanes – on insert

 The Confession of Sin page 360

 The Peace

 Welcome and Announcements

 THE HOLY COMMUNION

 Offertory Hymn **#**

Doxology (sung)

 The Great Thanksgiving:

 Eucharistic Prayer C page 369

 Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

 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 November 20, 2022**

Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Psalm 46; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43.

**Sisters and brothers in Christ**,

We all know what it is like to be remembered and we know what it is like to be forgotten. Think of a time you were remembered, what happened, how it felt. Maybe it was a phone call, a letter, a visit, a gift, a simple word. Maybe it was a surprise or maybe it was what you were hoping for. Maybe it was as seemingly simple as someone recognizing you, looking you in the eyes, and calling you by name. Regardless of what it was or how it came about it brought you some sense of life, healing, and wholeness. We all want to be remembered. It means that we matter, we belong, we exist, and our life is real.

There is life, presence, and relationship in being remembered. We know how important remembering is. That’s why a couple of weeks ago on the Feast of All Saints we remembered by name those we love and who love us, those who are forever a part of us and our lives, those who have nurtured, cared for, and taught us. When we are remembered it is as if our life is being put back together, because it is. That is exactly what is happening. We are being made whole. Despite the scattered pieces of our lives, things done and left undone, in the moment of being remembered we are seen, recognized, and known by name. We are alive. We are remembered.

Compare that with a time when you were forgotten. What did that feel like? Have you ever sat in a restaurant waiting for someone who did not show up? How about that person that looks at you, begins to speak, and you realize they have no idea who you are or what your name is? Maybe someone forgot your birthday, or the anniversary of your wedding or the death of a loved one. In those moments we feel alone, abandoned, uncertain, afraid, wounded, maybe even angry. There is a sense of helplessness. Questions and doubts arise within us. We are no longer sure of our place and whether we even belong. Regardless of why or how it comes about there is hurt, separation and isolation, a dismembering of the relationship and our life. No one wants to be forgotten or asks to be forgotten. Whether we speak it aloud or not our cry is to be remembered. Everyday we stand on the threshold between being remembered and being forgotten. We also stand on the threshold of remembering and forgetting another. I am not talking about the usual understanding of remembering and forgetting as a mental activity. This is more than recalling a past event or failing to stop at the grocery store on the way home to pick up the milk. I’m speaking of remembering in the sense of joining the pieces together, putting the parts back again as one. The opposite of remembering is dismembering; separation, pulling apart, tearing limb from limb. The thief on the cross wants to be re-membered, put back together again. He is not asking to simply be thought about. What good does that do him? He cries out, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” Jesus responds, “I’ll think about you when I am in paradise. I’ll think about this day. I’ll think how tragic and sad your life is, but I won’t do anything about it.” That’s neither what the thief is asking for nor what he needs. That’s not what we need nor what we ask for.

Just like the thief we want to be re-membered, to have the many pieces of our life put back together. Our cry to be re-membered is also a recognition and confession of our dismemberment. We have been dis-membered. Pieces have been scattered and lost. Sometimes it happens through the circumstances of life; loss and grief, shattered dreams, disappointment, regret, failures, the death of a loved one. Other times it comes about through our actions, our words, even our thoughts. Our life becomes fragmented and broken. When that happens, we can easily become thieves. We take what is not ours. We dis-member others’ lives in an attempt to put our own back together. It happens in all sorts of ordinary ways: anger and resentment, criticism, judgment, envy, comparison and competition, gossip, bad mouthing another, perfectionism, the need to be right or in control, busyness, excessive productivity, and efficiency. Look at your relationships. Wherever there is strain, hurt, brokenness, chances are that you or another are being dis-membered, forgotten, torn apart. That is not the life God gave us. That is not God’s dream or hope for us. That’s not what it was like in the very beginning, on the day of our creation, when God looked at all of creation, us included, and declared, “It is very good.”

Sometimes, however, we don’t even recognize our own dismembering. Listen to what the leaders, the soldiers, and the other thief in today’s gospel say. “Save yourself. Prove who you are. Save us.” They want a magic show. They want to escape their lives rather than have them put back together in a way they could never imagine. So, they mock. They deride Jesus. They demand proof. Those are all signs of their own dismemberment. They even divide, dismember, Jesus’ clothes. In the midst of all that, however, there is an ironic truth. It is an inscription hanging above Jesus, a sign of remembering: “This is the King of the Jews.” It declares a remembering between the Jews and their king, between God and God’s people, between Jesus and us. The cross is the ultimate act of remembering; God in Christ joining and aligning himself with us in the pain and suffering of this life. Remembering is always act of love.

Every time we participate in the life of Christ by living with mercy, compassion, forgiveness; every time we speak a word of hope and encouragement; every time we love without condition, expectation, or payment; every time we share our bread and live in communion with one another we participate in Christ’s remembering of our own lives, the lives of each other, and the life of the world. We “do this in remembrance of Jesus.” In those moments we hear the promise of Jesus, “Today you will be with me in paradise. “Paradise is the state of being remembered. It is what Jesus offers us and what we, in our remembering and living like Jesus, offer each other. Remembering is neither about the past nor the future; it is about today. It is Jesus’ presence with us, and ours with him and each other, here, now, in whatever our life circumstances might be. “Today you will be with me in paradise.” Why is that the promise given us on this Sunday, the last Sunday of the Church’s year? Why this gospel on this day? That promise is the hinge between the ending of this liturgical year and the beginning of the next. It stands between the crucifixion and the nativity, the falling of the temple from last week’s gospel and the return of Christ in next week’s gospel. Ultimately, though it is the promise that joins the many different endings in our lives with a new beginning. In Christ’s eyes we are never forgotten and dismembered. We are forever and always remembered. “Today you will be with me in paradise” is Jesus’ promise to each one of us, this day, and every day.

The reign of Christ does not mean we now have all the answers, that everything is fixed, that there is no more pain, or that every problem has been eliminated. Jesus will not take us off our crosses. Instead, he gets up there with us. He does not fix our lives. Instead, he enters into the reality of our ordinary existence. We are remembered and right there, in the reality of our everyday life, in the midst of our pain, in the midst of our dying, in the midst of our brokenness, in the midst of our guilt Christ the King says to us, “Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise**.” Amen**!

 LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/CHRIST THE KING

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

 COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

 **LAST DAY TO BRING IN OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOE BOXES**

 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

 1 ADVENT 10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

 (also on zoom)

 COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

 Today Next Week

Eucharistic Minister Anthony Giordano Deb Giordano

Coffee Hour Giordanos Jess Berbeck

 **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:

Grace Schinella Harriet Capers Bob Curley

John Mulligan Arlene Goodenough Celeste

Chris Dickson Kate Jones Deb P.

Michael Echevarria John Rocco Gabriel

Barbara Stinson Michael & Family Warren

Charlotte H. Bernie Walther Anthony

Mo (Rachael) Bill Conklin Sr. Carolyn

Anthony Paribello Barbara Curran Del

Ciara Robert Sweat Aidan

Elodie Sophia Carol K.

People of Haiti Christopher & Family Julia

Maggie & Family People of Ukraine Tim

Nathan Treadwell Bob Lazevnick Art

Margaret Victims of Hurricanes

Richard & Family

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

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

Storms and Hurricanes

O God, you rule over all creation, which you have set free

to act according to its nature. We know and love your world, which is also a world of randomness and chance. You are

Lord of chaos as well as order. We pray to you for people

caught in storms and hurricanes. We remember particularly

those whose work is dangerous, police and firefighters,

rescue workers of all kinds. You are known in storm and in

calm, you are Lord of thunders, you moved across the hills

of Judea. You are also a presence in stillness, a voice from

silence. You spoke to Job in the whirlwind and quieted the

Sea of Galilee. Wherever we are, in storm or calm, we know

your presence. Call us sometimes to storm, sometimes to calm,

sometimes to wilderness, sometimes to silence.

Call us always to yourself, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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