

Church of the Divine Love

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 22, 2022

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#518 – Christ is made the sure foundation**

(extra verse on facing page)

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 16:9-15**

Psalm 67

Second Lesson: **Revelation 21: 10, 22-22:5**

Gradual Hymn – **#405 – All things bright and beautiful**

Gospel: **John 14:23-29**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#537 – Christ for the world we sing!**

Doxology (sung)	
The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
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 – #439 – What wondrous love is this	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #313 – Let thy Blood in mercy poured	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday May 22, 2022

Acts 16:9-15; Psalm 67; Revelation 21:10,22-22:5; John 14: 23-29.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” “Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. “I hope you will hold on to those words. Let them take root in you. Let them be the basis from which you speak and act. Let them be the ears with which you listen. What I am about to say to you is grounded in those words.

Every week as I begin thinking about the upcoming sermon I take a look at my life, your lives, our community, country, and world to see how the gospel might intersect with what is happening. How might the gospel guide us? What is it calling for and asking of us? What challenge, comfort, hope, or encouragement is it bringing us? How might we embody and live the gospel in the context of what is happening? Most weeks a sermon can go in a number of different directions. But some weeks something happens, a situation arises, and the decision is made for me. To not preach about that situation would be a betrayal of Jesus, you, and my priesthood. This is one of those weeks and the situation is this: those who were shot in Buffalo last week. So, the peace of God means both safety and justice. Some hearts are troubled and afraid. Some are angry. Some are skeptical and cynical. Some are breaking with compassion, and some are hardening. That’s not a judgment about anyone. It’s simply a recognition of what’s happening and our need for the peace of Jesus. We need his peace within us and between us.

I wish I could tell you that Jesus' peace will fix this situation and make everything better. I can't. I don't think that's what Jesus' peace does. His peace is not necessarily the absence or cessation of conflict, the resolution of our problems, or unanimity and agreement. His peace is more about what's going within us than what is going on around us. I think we all want a solution to this situation. For most of us though a solution to conflict or a difficult situation usually means that someone else needs to change what she or he says, does, or believes. Jesus' peace is not about changing someone else but about changing us. We have no power to change anyone's heart but our own. Ours is the only heart we can change. I wonder if we are willing to let Jesus' peace change our hearts.

A heart at peace sees the other as a human being even in the midst of conflict and disagreement. When my heart is at peace the hopes, fears, concerns, and needs of others are as real to me as my own. When my heart is at war, however, the other is an object, issue, obstacle, or irrelevancy to me. Will we live with our hearts at peace or at war? That's the question each one of us must answer, and we do. Every day we answer that question and our answer to that question determines our way of being toward others. How do we want to be toward the other, whether that other is a migrant, a Border Patrol agent, a democrat, a republican, or our president? We can continue arguing with one another about who is right or wrong and what is the right or wrong thing to do but the deepest way in which we are right or wrong is in our way of being toward others. We want to be right in our way of being towards others. We want to live with a heart at peace. And that's not always easy. It means we might have to make difficult changes in our thinking, attitudes, speaking, and actions.

So, let's make a stand and choose a side. Let's choose to be right in our way of being toward others. Let's choose to stand on the side of humanity. Isn't that the call of the gospel? Isn't that where Jesus stands? Over and over again Jesus chose to be right in his way of being toward others. He stood with and reached out to those in need. He called the apostles to come away and rest for a while because they had no leisure even to eat (Mk. 6:30-32). He had compassion on and fed the five thousand when the disciples wanted to send them away to find food for themselves somewhere else (Mt. 14:13-21). He identified himself with the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick, the imprisoned, and said that what we do or do not do for them is what we do or do not do for him (Mt. 25:31-46). He chose to touch those the law declared to be untouchable (Lk. 5:12-13). He let his heart and mind be changed about the extent of his ministry and mission by a Syrophenician woman, a foreigner, an outsider, someone he had rejected (Mk. 7:24-29). "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you." "Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

This peace that Jesus gives is a call for us to be peace to others, to bring our peace into the midst of chaos and conflict, to live with a heart at peace and be right in our way of being toward others. What might that look like for you today? Where and with whom is your heart at peace and where and with whom is it at war? What would you need to do or change in order to be right in your way of being toward others, toward the migrants, the Border Patrol, republicans, democrats? Jesus has given us his peace. What will we do with it now? Do not be troubled? Do not be afraid? What world was Jesus living he does! On that same night Jesus tells us, "In this world you will have trouble.

As Christians, we pray for such good things as surpass our understanding, we pray for the excess of our desire, we pray for faith that can move mountains. This Easter season, as is invited in every liturgical season, it might be a rewarding discipline of faith to try to believe in what we pray, to know that we can ask God for beyond that which we can understand, and to actually believe that God can deliver it. Praying for that which surpasses our understanding means praying for the things we cannot figure out ourselves. The history of humankind shows we cannot figure out power, equal distribution, love towards our neighbor. Being resurrection people, believing that death is not the last word, means we believe, truly, that God is bigger than what we can see, and that God is present in ways we cannot imagine, and that God holds us all, dreams with us, and blesses us. The peace we have in Jesus assures us that we have obeyed his teachings because love and forgiveness strengthen us to live at peace with those around us. God's storehouse of love and forgiveness is infinite. He wants to pour it out on us. How can we get more of it? By making use of the means by which he pours it into our hearts and lives. He does so through the Means of Grace, the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. Spending time in the Means of Grace enables the Holy Spirit to fill your hearts and minds with peace. Fill up on the peace that is yours in Jesus. Without the Means of Grace, there is no Jesus and there is no peace.

The peace of Jesus is yours as a totally free gift. It doesn't depend on how well world powers or earthly families and friends are getting along. It cannot be dampened by deceitful words or hurt feelings. It isn't affected when things don't always go the way you want them to. That's what makes the peace of Jesus so amazing, so divine, so worthy of our time and attention. That's why Paul writes, "Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly." Yes, let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts by letting the word of Christ dwell in you richly and don't be surprised when more of those peaceful moments in life come your way. Shalom, peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. **Amen.**

6 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	
	11:15 AM	Vestry Meeting	
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	
7 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Jess Berbeck
Altar Guild	Deb Giordano	Roe Prosser
	Jess Berbeck	
Coffee Hour	Deb & Anthony Giordano	Janet Croft

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:

Carol K.	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Julia	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren

Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Theresa K.
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Dorothy
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Tim
Maggie & Family	People of Ukraine	Amy E.
Nathan Treadwell	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

The departed: Sylvia

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