

Church of the Divine Love

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 13

JULY 31, 2022

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

Psalm 49:1-11

Second Lesson: **Colossians 3:1-11**

Gradual Hymn – #

Gospel: **Luke 12:13-21**

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 #

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 – #	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday July 31, 2022

Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14:2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-11; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21

Beloveds in Christ,

“This very night your life is being demanded of you”. What is demanding and taking your life today?

That’s the question I want to begin with. It’s the question that runs through what I am about to say to you. And I hope it’s the question you will take with you when you leave here today. It is a central question not just in today’s gospel, but in each of our lives. What is demanding and taking your life today?

Let me be clear about what I am asking. I’m not asking about your physical health or illnesses. And I’m not asking about the end of our lives, when or how we might die. I’m asking about something bigger and more important than that. I’m talking about the way our life can ebb away from us. Have you ever felt like your life was ebbing away, receding, diminishing? Have you ever felt like the tide of your life was going out?

Sometimes we experience that ebbing away in our relationships with our spouse, our children, a friend, even God. Sometimes we experience it as the absence of meaning, purpose, or direction in our life. Sometimes we feel it in regard to ourselves when we are not living the life we want to live or being the person, we want or know ourselves too truly be. Sometimes we experience it as an absence of enthusiasm and vitality, and we’re just going through the motions. Life is on autopilot. Sometimes it’s feeling like we’re trapped in the life we’ve created for ourselves. We might finally have what we want

only to find we don't really want what we have. Sometimes there's nothing really wrong or bad about our life but there's a restlessness and sense that something is missing. Sometimes it feels like we are the rat in a race for nothing more than another piece of cheese.

A few weeks ago, a young man said to me, "I'm starting to add color back to my life." He had recognized that his life was ebbing away. In what ways might your life be ebbing away today? I think that's what is happening to the rich farmer in Jesus' parable. He is storing up and storing up and storing up without any attention to or awareness of what really gives life, and his life is ebbing away. The great danger and tragedy of an ebbing away life is that it reaches a tipping point, a point beyond which we cannot right the ship, a point at which our life is demanded and taken. "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you," God says to the rich farmer.

Some will hear or read these words as God demanding the man's life. But that's not what the text says. It simply says, "Your life is being demanded of you." So, here's what I wonder. What if God is not the one making a demand on the man? What if the demanding of the man's life is neither God's judgment nor punishment? What if God is simply naming what happens when we store up and store up and store up without any attention to or awareness of what really gives life? What if, and this is a key one, what if the stored-up grain and goods are demanding the man's life? What we store up eventually demands and takes our life. It doesn't matter what it is. It could be anger, grudges, resentment. It could be guilt or regrets. It could be pride or arrogance. It could be a need for approval, attention, or recognition. It could be perfectionism, the need to be right, the need to have the final word. It could be criticism, condemnation, or judgment of others or ourselves. It could be fear, worry, anxiety. It could be money, possessions, wealth. It could be power, position, or control. It could be success, reputation, or winning.

The list goes on and on. What else would you add to this list? Whatever we store up for ourselves eventually demands and takes our life emotionally, spiritually, and sometimes physically. Think about a time your stored up anger or resentment and the way it began to eat away at your life. Think about a time when you stored up judgment or condemnation of yourself or another and how it eventually stole your life. Think about the way stored up fear or worry takes away your life. If our life is ebbing away maybe it's time to look at what we are storing up. And it's not only about us as individuals. I am afraid our life as a nation is ebbing away, more mass shootings, tribalism, white supremacy, lack of decency in our conversations, deepening divisions and ongoing accusations. What are we as a nation storing up? As Jesus warns, there are all kinds of greed. It might be books, shoes, or any other tangible thing. It might be amassing money, land, or other wealth. But greed can also be about time, attention, approval, love, knowledge, power, control, being right, being in charge, or a thousand other things.

Ultimately, though, greed is not about any of these things. They are just the symptoms or pointers to the deeper issue. The issue is not about quantity but a condition of the heart. Greed is really just a way of dealing with our own feelings of deficit and emptiness. It's not so much about having enough but about being enough. When we believe ourselves to be deficient, when we lose belief in ourselves, when we feel we are not enough, then we get greedy. We use things and other people to fill the hole inside us. We were not created to live storing up lives or to be storing up people. That simply is not the way or teaching of Jesus. And when you pray say, "Give us each day our daily bread." Not bread for a week, a month, or a lifetime, but bread for a day. In the wilderness the Israelites were to gather only enough manna for one day. They were not to store up for the next day. (Exodus 16:13-21)

Storing up is about more than just quantity. It is a way of being, a way of living only for we, a way of distancing and cutting off from others. When we store up, life becomes all about us. Listen to the man's conversation with himself. Eleven times he uses the words I or me. There is no mention of or care or concern for anyone but himself. His storing up has blinded him to what really matters and what life really consists of. The issue before us this morning is then: what did this man do wrong? To answer that question, we must understand that this is not a parable about money. It is a parable about values and what is important in life. With that in mind, let me suggest four things that this man did that made him a fool: 1. He Had Full Barns, but an Empty Heart. 2. He Overestimated Himself. 3. He Forgot about the Real Business of Life. 4. He Forgot about Time.

Life does not consist of what we store up. The things of life that hold the deepest meaning, value, and purpose, love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, justice, cannot be stored up. They can only be given away. That's what we see in the life of Jesus. No one and no thing demanded or took his life. It was not a stored-up life. It was a life given to others, for others.

As we approach this Table today, as we offer up our worship and praise and thanks to the God who saves us, may we strive to strive less. May we hope to hope more. May we love without reservation, less concerned with ourselves and more dependent on God to provide for us, to care for us, to be rich toward us in grace and mercy. May we be rich toward God. **Amen.**

Masks optional with social distance seating

8 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE 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	
9 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Jess Berbeck	Roe Prosser
Altar Guild	Deb Giordano	Roe Prosser
	Jess Berbeck	Marie Quatorze

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	Robert Sweat
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor

Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Sophia	Del
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Maggie & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim
Nathan Treadwell	Bob Lazevnick	Art

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

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