

Church of the Divine Love

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 14, 2023 10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn # **657**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 17:22-31**

Psalm 66:7-18

Second Lesson: **1 Peter 3:13-22**

Gradual Hymn # **488**

Gospel: **John 14:15-21**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn # **405**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 367
Hymn during Consecration – on insert	
The Lord’s Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn # 323	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn # 563	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday May 14, 2023

Acts 17:22-31; Psalm 66:7-18; 1 Peter 3:13-22; John 14:15-21.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Have you ever thought of yourself as God’s Advocate? Have you ever thought of yourself as the one who gives existence to God’s insistence for your own life or the life of another? And what if each one of us started living like that? What might this advocacy look like in your life?

“I will not leave you orphaned.” At some point we all want or even need to hear these words. They speak directly to some of our greatest fears and challenges; abandonment and isolation, loneliness, vulnerability. They remind us that we are not destined to walk this earth without an identity or direction. We do not stand alone. To be sure there are seasons of life, moments, when the transitions, changes, and tragedies can leave us feeling as orphans. Whether spoken or unspoken the questions begin. What will I do now? Where do I go? What happens next? Who will love, nurture, and guide me? Who stands on my side? What will become of me? Those are the orphan’s questions. Those are the questions I imagine running through the heads and hearts of the disciples into gospel.

Today all mothers should feel that they're valued and appreciated by their families. If you're a mom I hope that will be the case for you. On Mothers' Day it's good to express our love and gratitude to our mother. But do we also express appreciation to our mother during the rest of the year? Our words, or our lack of words, can have powerful consequences. Often the only words we say to our mother are unkind or hurtful words. I've known mothers who soldier on, caring for their children and praying for them each day, only to receive words that wound. Perhaps even more often it's not just cruel words, but indifference and silence. Our mother goes on loving us and supporting us, but we treat her with coldness and hostility. I'm not pretending mothers are perfect, and never make mistakes. But most mothers deserve far more praise and thanks than they receive.

The Bible passage, in Proverbs 31, describes a woman who is a godly wife and mother. It details her noble character, her support for her husband, her vigorous work to provide for her family, her generosity to the poor and needy, her business enterprises, her strength and dignity, her wise counsel and instruction. Quite a description! Let me read the final verses: 'Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: Many women do noble things, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate' (Proverbs 31:28-31).

Let me pray: Heavenly Father, we thank you for designing families. Thanks for the care and devotion of our mothers, despite their imperfections. We are grateful for the many ways your love and goodness has been shown to us through our mother and mother figures. Help each mom and those who have mothering roles today to feel appreciated and loved, and to grow in their relationship with you. We pray you through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen! Happy Mother's Day to all our noble mothers!

It is the last supper. Disciples have been fed, feet have been washed, the betrayer has left. It is night, dark, and Jesus announces he is leaving. The one for whom they left everything now says he is leaving. "We do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" "Show us the father." More orphan questions. We all need an Advocate. We all need to be reminded, especially when the future is uncertain, life has been turned upside down, and we're afraid or overwhelmed. We need to be reminded when we're angry or frustrated. We need to be reminded when we are sad and grieving. We need to be reminded when we're busy, successful, and self-sufficient. We need to be reminded when we're lost and don't know the way. We need to be reminded when we feel like an orphan – alone and lonely, on our own, having to look out and fend for ourselves.

Advocacy always looks like love and affirms life. When your heart breaks for the pain of the world, when you reach out in compassion, when you weep over another's loss you are the Advocate in that moment. When you offer or seek forgiveness, when you refuse to judge, when mercy rather than condemnation is your way, you are God's Advocate. When another encourages and stands beside you, says exactly what you need to hear, or shows up at just the right time you are experiencing God's advocacy. When

someone listens to your life, celebrates your joys, or cries over your losses, the Advocate is with you. When you love or are loved the Advocate is there. When another speaks a truth or offers guidance that helps you change your life she or he is advocating on your behalf. When you speak words of hope, hold another's needs and concerns as important as your own, or pray for another you are their Advocate. Advocates sit at the bedside of another. They care for the sick and dying. They console the bereaved.

This Advocate does not, however, just remind us of what Jesus said, Google can do that. And the Advocate is not some formless, invisible, eternal essence floating high above the earth. It is a life lived in and with the spirit of God. This Advocate insists we give existence to Jesus' words and life in our lives through our thoughts, words, and actions. The Advocate is felt as the rumblings and restlessness of our heart, insisting, calling, luring, and soliciting our response in the concrete conditions of life. The Advocate shows up every time you and I embody God's life and spirit

We fear becoming orphaned. That fear points to the deeper reality that by ourselves we are not enough. It is not, however, because we are deficient. It is rather because we were never intended or created to be self-sufficient. We were never intended to stand alone as individuals. We were created to love and be loved, to live in relationship as persons giving themselves to each other, to dwell, abide, and remain within each other even as the Father is in Jesus and Jesus is in the Father; the antithesis of being orphaned. "I will not leave you orphaned." That is the promise. Regardless of the circumstances of our lives, storms, death, separation, we have never been and will never be orphaned by God. How strange that must have sounded to the disciples. In the same conversation Jesus tells them that he is leaving and coming. Leaving and coming sure sound like opposites. If we are not careful, we will get struck trying to reconcile or figure this out. It is not, however, something to figure out. It is rather a means to see and live in a different way. Leaving and coming. Presence and Absence. These must be held in tension, not as mutually exclusive. That is what Jesus has set before us in today's gospel. That tension confronts us with the question of whether Jesus, for us, is a past memory or a present reality, a sentimental story that makes us feel good or a living experience that challenges, guides, and nurtures our life.

Wherever there is love, there is the Advocate. Wherever there is life and more life, there is the Advocate. Life and love are the advocacy of God. Look around. Look at the concrete conditions of your life, relationships, and world. Look for the places of pain, diminished life, or disconnection. What advocacy is being asked of you? Every time we expand the boundaries of our love, we push back the orphanages of this world creating space within us where the Father and Jesus make their home. **Amen!**

6 EASTER	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	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	10:00 AM	CLEAN-UP DAY	
7 EASTER	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	Deb Giordano	Roe Prosser
Coffee Hour	Janet Croft	Giordanos

SUMMER SCHEDULE – From June 4th until September 3rd the service will be held at 9:00 AM

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella	Lourdes S.	Kaylee
Bob Curley	Arlene Goodenough	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Bethany
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Phil Ryder	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
Mary & Family	Christopher	Amy
Nathan Treadwell	Vincent	Tim
Judy	Celeste and Family	

All people and countries suffering from violence and hatred.

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,

form 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