

Church of the Divine Love
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 15
AUGUST 18, 2024 9:00 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Proverbs 9:1-6**

Psalm 34: 9-14

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 5:15-20**

Gradual Hymn –

Gospel: **John 6: 51-58**

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

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 367
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	
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Dismissal Hymn –	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday August 18, 2024

Proverbs 9: 1-6; Psalm 34: 9-14; Ephesians 5: 15-20; John 6: 51-58.

Sisters and brothers in the faith,

A friend of mine called last week. He asked, how are you? It's a common question, one we ask and are asked every day. You and I both know the standard answers and I gave them. I said, fine. I'm doing well. Things are really busy right now. I'm good. He laughed and said, are you trying to convince me or yourself?

I suspect I'm not the only one who's had this type of conversation. Most of us have these kinds of conversations several times each day. We offer the usual answers. Sometimes we add something about our family, our health, where we have been, or what we have been doing. More often than not those conversations focus on the circumstances of life. We might be fine and busy, getting our work done, meeting deadlines and commitments, fulfilling obligations, volunteering our time, and loving and caring for our families but there is a difference, a vast difference, between doing life and having life within us.

Doing life or having life; that's the issue Jesus is concerned about. That's the focus of today's gospel. It is important enough that it has been the subject of the last several Sundays of gospel readings. Each week

has brought us closer to the unspoken question behind today's gospel: Is there life within you? That's a hard question and one which many will avoid or ignore. They will turn back and walk away rather than face the question. Fine, busy, good, and doing well do not answer the question. They cover it up. The question pushes us to discover the hunger within us and the life Jesus wants to feed us. That's what Jesus has been after these last few weeks. Three weeks ago, **5000** hungry people showed up. They were fed with five loaves and two fish. They didn't understand. They thought it was about loaves and fish. It was really about life and where life comes from. Two weeks ago, Jesus challenged us to consider the bread we eat. Is it perishable bread or does it endure to eternal life? Last week Jesus declared himself to be the bread of life, the living bread they came down from heaven.

Today he says, "**Eat me. Drink me.**" This is the only way we ever have life within us. Jesus is very clear and blunt about it. His flesh is true food and his blood is true drink. Any other diet leaves us empty and hollow, hungry and bereft of life. "Very truly, I tell you unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood you have no life in you." Those are ominous words, words that haunt and challenge us to consider whether there is life within us. Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." Is there Life within you? It's not a question about physical or biological life. It's more than that. It's about Life with a capital L. It's beyond words, indescribable, and yet we know it when we taste it. Think about those experiences when you feel larger than life, not because you've done or accomplished something but because you feel connected to and a part of something larger than yourself. Haven't there been moments when you thought or said to yourself, this moment is perfect and I never want it to end? When was the last time you took a bite of life and it tasted good and you wanted more?

That's the life Jesus is talking about in each of those six statements. And I wonder if that's the life you are living today. Is there Life within you? At some level we all know that kind of life is available and we hunger for it. It's a holy hunger that causes us to ask ourselves, what am I doing with my life? We wonder if this is all there is or ever will be. Is this as good as it gets? We're sure there is more to life than this. What we really want to know is if there is Life within us. Well, is there? It's such an important question because my guess is that all of us at some point live less than fully alive. We go through the motions. We put life on auto-pilot. And we hunger for more life. When have you felt that holy hunger? Are you feeling it today and, if so, what are you feeding it? How would you describe your life today? What would you say about it? It seems to me that most of the time we describe our lives in terms of history and circumstances. We focus more on what we do than what really matters to and enlivens us. We talk about where we are from, where we live, our marital status, and with whom we live. We talk about our work, roles, and busy schedules. We talk about what we have and what we want. We talk about our age, health, and the struggles or difficulties of our lives. We express our political or religious beliefs and talk about the way things used to be, the way they are, and the way they should be. We talk about who is with us and who is against us. We talk about what's going on in our life, our town our country.

All of that may be a true and accurate description of our lives but the question remains: Is there Life within you? The circumstances of our lives are not unimportant. They matter and they make a

difference. They're not, however, the way Jesus thinks of and looks at Life. "Therefore, I tell you," Jesus said, "do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?" (**Matthew 6:25**). Jesus is talking about more than just physical or biological life. He's talking about that life that is beyond words, indescribable, and yet we know it when we taste it. We get a taste of it when we love so deeply and profoundly that everything about us dies, passes away, and somehow, we are more fully alive than ever before. Sometimes everything seems to fit together perfectly and all is right with the world; not because we got our way but because we knew our self to be a part of something larger, more beautiful, and more holy than anything we could have done. We were tasting life. There are moments when time stands still and we wish the moment would never end. In that moment we are in the flow, the wonder, and the unity of life, and it tastes good.

Most of us spend a fair amount of time, energy, and prayer trying to create and possess the life we want. In spite of our best efforts sometimes we live less than fully alive. Sometimes the outside and inside of who we are don't match up. We ask ourselves, what am I doing with my life? We wonder if this is all there will ever be. Is this as good as it gets? We lament at what has become of us and our life. Nothing seems to satisfy. We despair at what is and what we think will be. Despite family and friends, we find no place in which we really belong. Those questions and feelings are not so much a judgement on us, but a diagnosis of us. They are symptoms that there is no life in us. We are dying from the inside out. There is, however, treatment for our condition and food for our hunger. Life in Christ, not death in the wilderness, is our destiny. The flesh and blood of Christ are the medicine that saves; what **St. Ignatius** called "the medicine of immortality." One dose, however, is not enough. We need a steady diet of this sacred medicine, this holy food. Jesus is our medicine and our health. He is our life and the means to the life for which we most deeply hunger. We don't work for the life we want. We eat the life we want. Wherever human hunger and the flesh and blood of Christ meet, there is life.

In the eating and drinking of Christ's flesh and blood he lives in us and we live in him. We consume his life that he might consume and change ours. We eat and digest his life, his love, his mercy, his forgiveness, his way of being and seeing, his compassion, his presence, and his relationship with the father. We eat and drink our way to life. So, leave nothing behind. Push nothing to the side. Clean your plate! That's the call of Jesus in each of our lives, to have life. **Amen.**

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 16

9:00 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	
FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 16			
	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	
	10:00 AM	VESTRY MEETING	

LOOKING AHEAD – 10:15 AM SERICE RESUMES SEPT. 8TH

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Jess Berbeck	Roe Prosser
Coffee	Dana Kenn	Erika Febres

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

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:

Sister Eddie	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art

Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
John Mulligan	John Rocco	Evelyn
Manetta Family	Donna A.	Kristen
Christopher	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Jerry & Family	Phil Ryder	Henry
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Robert Hosey	Beverly Noel	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Ciara
Mary & Family	Ann Turco	Jan
Grace Schinella	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Marjorie Guerrier.	Joseph
Nathan Treadwell	Danielle	Warren

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

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.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email
Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

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

