

Church of the Divine Love

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 6

JUNE 9, 2024 9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#620 – Jerusalem, my happy home**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

Psalm 92:1-4, 11-14

Second Lesson: **2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17**

Gradual Hymn **#376 – Joyful, joyful we adore thee**

Gospel: **Mark 4:26-34**

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 **#382 -King of glory, King of peace**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 367

Hymn during Consecration (printed on insert)

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn **#335 – I am the bread of life**

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn **#362 – Holy, holy, holy!**

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday June 16, 2024

Ezekiel 17:22-24; Psalm 92:1-4,11-14; 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, (11-13), 14-17; Mark 4:26-34.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

When you look at your life today, what's different compared to your life a year ago, three, five, twenty years ago? I'm not asking about circumstances or events. I am asking about you. In what ways have you changed? Have your values changed, the things that guide and direct your life? Are your priorities different? Has your spirituality changed? Your concerns for the world and others? What troubles your soul and breaks your heart these days? Are you loving in a new way? How has your self-image changed

or the way you view the world? What seeds have germinated and taken root in you? What new sprouts are coming up in you? Where is growth taking place and what does that look like?

Today we honor our fathers. And that's good. Fathers demonstrate courage and protection towards their families in various ways through their actions, decisions, and guidance. Fathers often provide a sense of security and comfort for their families by offering emotional support during challenging times. Fathers take on the role of protector, ensuring the safety of their loved ones, whether it's through securing the home, teaching self-defense, or being a source of strength in times of danger. Fathers often make tough decisions for the well-being of their families, displaying courage in the face of uncertainty or adversity. By living with integrity, fathers model courage and protection for their children, inspiring them to face their own challenges with bravery. Fathers work to create a stable environment for their families, offering a secure foundation from which their loved ones can grow and thrive. Fathers demonstrate courage by standing up for what they believe is right and instilling those values in their families. Simply being present and actively engaged in their families' lives demonstrates courage and protection, showing a commitment to their well-being and development. Happy Father's Day to our noble fathers!

As a father, when I look back on my life I can see qualitative changes in my marriage – for the better – but I can't point to anything in particular that made that happen. My life of prayer today is very different from a few years ago and I'm not really sure when or how it changed but I know it has. My passion for justice, peace, and the well-being of others has grown in ways I can't explain. My guess is that each of you could say similar things about aspects of your life. And that is not to suggest that any of our lives have been a straight line of progression. We both know better than that. That's not how growth works.

But the reality, as Jesus describes it in the parable of the growing seed (Mark 4:26-34), is that there is a dynamism about our lives, a spirit moving within us. Every one of us has been seeded and something is growing within us. Sometimes we don't see it, believe it, or trust it. But it's there. Sometimes we wait years hoping, looking, and wondering when, and then one day we see the first green blade rise up. Other times we wake up one day and are surprised by what has changed within us. How did that happen? When did it happen? I don't know but Jesus says it's always been there. It is not dependent upon us but we participate in it.

This parable Jesus tells is not about gardening or farming. Jesus is using images from gardening or farming to talk about your life and my life. His parable is a metaphor for the way God works in our lives. It's meant to be an encouragement and to offer hope. Our lives are like a garden that has been planted with seeds. And you know how that works. It takes time. And a lot happens underground, hidden within the soil of our lives. There's a lot of waiting. And then one day something sprouts and begins to grow, "first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head." We are always in process, living into our completion. "It is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground," Jesus says. And I wonder, who are those someone's in your life? Who has scattered seeds on the ground of your life? And what were those seeds? Who are the people that have loved and encouraged you, offered wisdom and guidance for your life, spoke difficult truths that changed your life? Who are the ones that gave you hope, stood by you,

helped you find yourself? In what ways did he or she offer you a place to put down roots, find stability, and get your life in order? Who has awakened you and opened your eyes to see the world, others, and yourself differently? Who has inspired and mentored you? Who has called forth from you more than you thought you had? In what ways did someone grow you up and call you into your better self?

Those are seeds scattered in your life by someone. Who is doing that for you today? What seeds is she or he scattering? And what if you and I are to be seed scatterers in the lives of others, for the life of the world? Have you ever forgiven and reconciled with another, or asked someone's forgiveness? When have you put another's interest before your own? Who have you encouraged, loved, reached out to in compassion? When have you sat with someone in his or her grief and said, I'll be here for you? When have you spoken out and worked for justice? When have you shared with someone else the seed that you are? In what ways are you doing that today? What barren ground is waiting to be seeded and planted with your life, gifts, passions, presence, and concerns? Maybe it's the barren ground of racism, violence, poverty. Maybe it's the barren ground across which migrant families walk seeking a better life. Maybe it's the barren ground of loneliness, fear, or despair. Maybe it's the barren ground of grief, pain, or heartbreak. How might you scatter seeds in those places and a thousand others like them?

What is sprouting and growing in your life today? What is flourishing and blossoming? Where is there new growth? What does that growth look like? Is it in your faith journey, marriage, parenting? Maybe it's your concern for what is happening in our world today? Maybe there's a growing compassion for those in need. Maybe you have a new vision for who you are and how you want to live your life. Maybe it's a dream or vision for your life that is coming to fruition. Maybe your heart is softening and there's a new tenderness in your relationships. What do you wish was growing in the garden of your life? What colors or fragrances are missing? Where have weeds taken over? What needs attention?

I'm well aware that I have asked you more questions than I've given you answers. I have no answers, and Jesus offers none in today's parable. Parables don't offer answers they ask us better questions. They give us our work to do. They offer a different lens through which to see ourselves, others, and the world. And maybe seeing differently is the beginning of being different. What is this parable showing you about your life and the world? What do you see today?

Meanwhile as the kingdom gestates and sprouts, proximity to Jesus and his way puts us in a position to learn more about the kingdom so that we don't miss the quiet growth of the familiar mustard plant in our own garden or indeed the garden plots of hungry listeners already springing up around Jesus and nesting in the shade of his fruitful, abundant, sheltering grace. God, may the seed just grow and sprout in ways far beyond what we could ask or imagine, in each of our lives, and in our life together as Your church, as this outpost of Your Kingdom. We pray all of this in the name of Jesus, the King, and all God's people said, **Amen.**

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 6

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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 7

9:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

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

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:

Manetta Family	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
John Mulligan	John Rocco	Judy
Warren	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	Alexandra Goldman	Evelyn

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 forever. Amen

