

Church of the Divine Love
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 13

AUGUST 1, 2021

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #690 – **Guide me, O thou great Jehovah**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (S-280 in hymnal) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15**

Psalm 78:23-29

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 4:1-16**

Gradual Hymn #48 – **O day of radiant gladness**

Gospel: **John 6:24-35**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #306 – **Come, risen Lord**

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

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 #321 – **My God, thy table now is spread**

Post Communion Prayer

page 365

Prayer of St. Francis

page 833

Dismissal Hymn – **How Great Thou Art** (see insert)

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday August 1st, 2021

Exodus 16: 2-4,9-15; Psalm 5: 1-13 or 78: 23-29; Ephesians 4: 1-16; John 6: 24-35

In the name of our loving, liberating, and life-giving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

We live as hungry people in a hungry world. Everyone is looking for something that will sustain and nourish life, something that will feed and energize, something that will fill and satisfy. Everyone is looking for bread. The problem is not that we are hungry, but the kind of bread we eat.

What are you looking for out of life? What would make you happy? More money in the bank? King Solomon once wrote, “whoever loves money, never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income.” King Solomon had money in the bank and then some. A bigger home? More stuff? Jesus tells us, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.” So, what are you looking for out of life? What would make you happy? Better health? Better employment? More respect? Even if God gave you everything you asked for, everything you wanted, would you really be happy, and would it really be for your good? Many of us eat the bread of having to be right and get our way. We eat the bread of hurt feelings and resentment. Sometimes we eat the bread of loneliness, fear, and isolation. There are times we eat the bread of sorrow or guilt. Other times we eat the bread of power and control. We eat all kinds of bread. The bread we eat reveals something about the nature of our appetites.

The world is full of bread and yet far too many live hungry, empty, and searching. That says something about our appetites and the bread we have eaten. It’s a sure sign that the bread we have eaten cannot give real life. It is perishable bread that nourishes only a perishable life. It leaves us wanting only more of the same. Not all bread sustains and grows life. Not all bread is nutritious. If you want to know the nutritional value of the bread you have to look beyond the bread. Where did it come from? What are its ingredients? That’s what Jesus is teaching in today’s gospel. The people have shown up hungry. Just last week Jesus fed 5000 of them with five loaves and two fish. Today they show up and their first question is, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

They do not marvel at last week’s miracle, give thanks for God’s generosity, or even wonder who this rabbi is. It sounds to me like they are worried they might have missed the next meal, that Jesus started without them, and they are too late. They saw no sign, no miracle, in last week’s feeding. They saw nothing more than fish and bread. They either refused or were unable to see beyond the fish and bread. They are interested only in their own appetites and Jesus knows it. “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves,” he says to them. The people are concerned for their bellies. Jesus is concerned for their lives. The people want to feed

themselves with bread. Jesus wants to feed them with God. "Do not work for the food that perishes," he tells them, "But for the food that endures for eternal life."

The food that endures is Jesus himself. He is the bread that is broken and distributed for the life of the world. He is the bread that is broken and yet never divided. He is the bread that is eaten and yet never exhausted. He is the bread that consecrates those who believe in and eat him. When we believe in Jesus, eating, ingesting, and taking him into our lives, we live differently. We see ourselves and one another as persons created in the image and likeness of God rather than as obstacles or issues to be overcome. We trust the silence of prayer rather than the words of argument. We choose love and forgiveness rather than anger and retribution. We relate with intimacy and vulnerability rather than superficiality and defensiveness. We listen for God's voice rather than our own. Ultimately, we seek life rather than death. "I am the bread of life," Jesus tells the people. "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." He is offering the people himself. He is the imperishable bread that nourishes and sustains imperishable life.

But instead of focusing on the word "give," the people there focused on the word "work." "What must we do to do the works God requires?" they asked. That's what work-righteousness teaches and believes. Something that's a part of us all by nature. Work-righteousness doesn't focus on what God gives us. It focuses on what we must give God. Give God an honest day's work for an honest day's wages and he'll give you the paycheck of an eternity in heaven because you've earned it. But it doesn't work that way because Paul writes, "the wage of sin is death...and...all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." The glory of God says, "be holy as I the Lord your God am holy." The glory of God says, "keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, 'never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.'" The glory of God reveals the sad truth that we haven't always loved God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength and we certainly haven't always loved our neighbor as ourselves. The glory of God reveals the sad truth that we don't deserve a spot in the Promised Land of Heaven, rather we deserve a spot in the Outer Darkness of Hell. Because even the finest of earthly food will still find you hungry the next morning. But not the food that is ours in Jesus. "Sir, give us this bread," was the reply of the crowd that day. They were so close and yet so far away. When Jesus told them that he was this bread, many no longer followed him. "You do not want to leave too, do you?" was the question Jesus asked the Twelve. One of those twelve, a disciple by the name of Peter would reply, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." May God strengthen us to say and do likewise!

Jesus makes us the same offer. He offers himself to us in every one of our relationships: family, friends, strangers, enemies, those who agree with us, and those who disagree. In every situation and each day of our life we choose the bread we will eat, perishable or imperishable. In so doing we also choose the life we want. So, I wonder, what bread will we eat today?

Let us pray: Father in heaven, we ask for the gift of faith, that we might believe in Jesus Christ, the one who came from heaven to nourish us with the spiritual food that leads to eternal life. Bless us as we come to this communion table to eat the bread from heaven. We ask that you fill us with the nourishing food that will sustain us eternally. In your Son's name and in the power of the Holy Spirit we pray.

Amen.

Prayer for Grace and Favor:

Dear God, we ask that you provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but say, “these are the ones that the Lord has blessed.” Shine your light in us, through us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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:

Girard Bishop	Dorothy	Lois Kessler
Nathan Treadwell	John Loubengeiger	Chris Dickson
Michael Echevarria	Francisco Febres	Del
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Kathleen
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	James
Julia	Mo (Rachael)	Warren
Bill Conklin	Anthony Paribello	Kate Jones
Barbara Curran	Edward Lent & family	Laura
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Christopher & his family	Aidan
Elodie	Taylor	Ciara
Gabriel	People of Haiti	

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.