

**Church of the Divine Love**

**TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 23**

**OCTOBER 13, 2024 10:15 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: **Amos: 5:6-7, 10-15**

Psalm 90:12-17

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 4:12-16**

Gradual Hymn

Gospel: **Mark 10:17-31**

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	
Prayer For the Parish	page 817
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn	

### **Sermon Sunday October 13, 2024**

Amos 5: 6-7, 10-15; Psalm 90: 12-17; Hebrews 4: 12-16; Mark 10: 17-31.

#### **Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

“Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” I wonder what drove the man to Jesus. I wonder what was going on in his life that caused him to run to Jesus, kneel down, and ask his question. What’s the desperation behind his question? What’s his desire?

We could speculate about him but chances are there have been times in your life when you asked the same kind of question. I know I have. It’s a restless, sleepless night kind of question. It’s a daytime longing and searching kind of question. It’s the kind of question that becomes a prayer or a call to a friend. It’s more than just a religious question, however. It was for the man and it is for us. It’s not about doctrine or theology. And it’s not about the future. It’s about this moment. It’s about life and it’s about being more alive. What must I do to have the fullness of life right here, right now?

I think it’s the question we ask when we bump up against our own finitude and our powerlessness. I wonder when you have asked this question. What was going on in your life? What was behind your

question? What was your desire? Your need? This question is about a quality of life, not a quantity. The man in today's gospel has plenty. He's rich with property, possessions, wealth. Haven't you had the experience of getting something you really wanted and then finding yourself still lacking? Something was missing and quantity could not fill the emptiness of quality. "You lack one thing," Jesus tells the man. He already knows that. That's why he is asking his question. What Jesus does is show him a way forward. He offers a new day and a fresh start.

The man in today's gospel has plenty of stuff but something is missing. His life is full but he is empty. Despite his acquisitions and accumulations, he is searching for more. He's acquired wealth but not the life he wants. There is an urgency about the man in today's gospel. He doesn't just go to Jesus. He runs to him and asks, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" He is looking for the life that only God can give. He's heard about it since his youth. It's the story told in scripture. It's the life promised to his and our ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It's the life that drew the Israelites through the Red Sea and into the wilderness. Like those before him this man is seeking the promised land. Despite his wealth, being good, and doing all the right things he just can't seem to get there.

I suspect each of you has asked that question when the weight of life was more than you could carry, when things were spinning out of control, when grief was strangling your soul, when the loss was irreparable and the time was ruined, when the life you were living was not the life you desired. Maybe some of you are experiencing that today. What must I do to inherit eternal life? What must I do to find myself again? What must I do to be more fully alive? How do I step through the impossibility of what is and into the possibility of what might be? We'd like to turn back time, undo the past, escape the moment. That's impossible. That's not going to happen. But what is the possibility in that impossibility? That's our real question and it's the one the man in today's gospel (**Mark 10:17-31**) is asking. He wants a different quality of life, a second chance, a new beginning, a new day. I know about that and I'll bet you do too.

It's so easy to hear Jesus' words as a challenge, as something to be accomplished, as demanding more than we are prepared to give or do. "Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." But what if we hear Jesus' words as words of hope and words of salvation? I am not talking about salvation as a reward, as being made safe, or even comfortable; but as being turned upside down, being unhinged, a reordering of life, a freedom to become, the gift of a new day. And I am not talking about hope as a feeling, a wish, or an escape from this moment; but as a coming of the possibility in the impossible, a voice, a calling that asks a response from us. Isn't that really what Jesus is offering the man in today's gospel? Hope. Salvation.

To get this new life, the old one must be let go of. And that's hard when there is so much to let go of. The man is invested in what he has. Most of us are. And what he wants will cost him everything he has. There can be no holding on to the things or events of the past if we want to step into a new day. That doesn't

mean we forget, deny, or ignore the past. It just means the past no longer defines what is or is not possible. This letting go of the old for the new is not a trade, an exchange, or a balancing of the books. And it's not a price we pay to God. It's about the freedom to become, the freedom to step into a new life, the freedom to see the possibility in the impossible. What might you need to let go of in order to step into a new day and make a fresh start? What possibilities await you in what looks like the impossible?

Ultimately, it means we do not create our own life, we receive life, we inherit it. We are not owners of our life but stewards and caretakers of God's life in the world, each other, and ourselves. We are free to possess without being possessed by our wealth. This is not easy work. When the man heard what Jesus had to say "he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions." There's a lot to let go of. Sometimes it's monetary wealth and possessions; sometimes it's a wealth of anger, fear, guilt; sometimes it's a wealth of busyness, our calendar, and task lists; sometimes it's the wealth of our reputation, another's approval, or our power; sometimes it's the wealth of ingrained habits and attitudes. We often hear this story as saying the man chose not to follow Jesus, but that's not what the text says. Today's gospel does not say that he refused to do what Jesus said. But neither does it say that he did what Jesus said. It says he turned away grieving. Maybe he went home and immediately sold his stuff, gave the money to the poor, and chased after Jesus. Maybe he did it a month later or eight years later. Or maybe he never did it. We just don't know. And that's ok. What he did or did not do is not the issue. The issue is about us, what we do or do not do.

All we have to do is take Jesus' hand. And let him lead us. And that is why, I think, Jesus invites us to let go of that one thing that we are keeping a tight grip on. Simply so that we can take the hand of Jesus, and be led into the kingdom of God. It's what Jesus wants for us all. He wants to heal us. He wants to save us. From death, from evil, and from whatever it is that might be keeping us from opening our hearts fully to his love. What must we do to inherit eternal life? Take the hand of our Savior. And follow him. It is an invitation that Jesus makes to us all, with love. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

#### TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 23

	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		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
SAURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 24

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

Today	Next Week	
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Anthony Giordano
Coffee	Janet Croft	Nolans

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	John Rocco	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Evelyn
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Christopher	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Danielle	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Donna A.	Kate Jones	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Ciara

Mary & Family	Ann Turco	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Joseph	

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](mailto: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



















