

Church of the Divine Love
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 9, 2021

10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#412 – Earth and All Stars v1-3&6**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - Lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 10:44-48**

Psalm 98

Second Lesson: **1 John 5:1-6**

Gradual Hymn **#400 – All creatures of our God and King (new version)**

Gospel: **John 15:9-17**

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 – **#593 – Lord, make us servants of your peace**

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus page 362

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread page 364

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn – #344 – Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing

Post Communion Prayer

page 365

Dismissal Hymn #651 – This is my Father's world

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday May 9, 2021

Acts 10: 44-48; Psalm 98; 1 John 5: 1-6; John 15: 9-17

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

We continue this week with the second part of chapter fifteen of the Gospel of John. And once again we hear the call to abide with God as God abides in us. Once again, we hear about the power and the freeing nature of God's love. Once again, we hear about how we as communities of faith are supposed to interact, support, and yes, love one another.

The love of Jesus for his disciples is the source of the disciples' love for each other. Often, we interpret this phrase to mean that Jesus' love is the example or model for our love; he calls us to the kind of radical love he shows. That is true, but not nearly enough. Jesus' love is also the fount of our love, the ever-flowing spring of the love that flows through the disciples. Loving one another is not meant to be a task, but a way of life. Loving one another is a natural outworking of being loved.

When Jesus is telling us to love one another, he is not talking about having affection for one another—though we may have that. He is not talking about being in love with one another—though we may, joyfully, find ourselves in that condition. He is not even talking about having true and deep friendships with one another—though we may be lucky enough to have those. He is talking about a love that transcends all the other loves, because it is ready to give of itself totally, wildly, and extravagantly, without hope or expectation of receiving anything at all in return. It is ready to give even at the risk of its own life, its own welfare. That is agape love. That is God-love. And that is what we are called to, as followers of Jesus. "Love one another, as I have loved you."

Loving others as God loved us is the heart of Christian discipleship. Christian life can only exist through human relationships, especially when they are based on mutual respect and humane values—including love. The apostle Peter showed the same type of love in Acts 10:44-48. His love for others, combined with the visions he and the Roman centurion Cornelius had led Peter to minister to Cornelius and his family. When Peter proclaimed the Good News, the Holy Spirit moved within his audience, and it marked both a second Pentecost and the spreading of the Good News to all people, not just the Jews. If the Holy Spirit could move in the hearts of Peter's audience, it can move in the hearts of people in our world today.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, today is the Mother's Day. So, the Gospel reading this morning is very appropriate for that day. After all, a mother's love for her children is a prime example of the love Jesus calls on us to have for one another. Mothers make sacrifices for their children, and in some extreme cases, such as domestic violence, they have literally sacrificed their own lives for their children. In prophet Isaiah 66:13, God says: I will comfort you there in Jerusalem as a mother comforts her child."

Mothers are incredibly special people. No one has more hopes, dreams, ambitions, and love for a child the way that a mother does. She watches over her child and hurts when they hurt. In my own life, my mother has been there to encourage and comfort me many times when life has thrown me a curveball. Many times, in fact, she has been there before I even let her know that I was struggling. She has had a sixth sense about such things. She has been a tremendous example of a mother's love for me. A Mother's heart, a Mother's faith, and a Mother's steadfast love were fashioned by the Angels and sent from God above. Mother's love is bliss, is peace, it need not be acquired, it need not be deserved. If it is there, it is like a blessing; if it is not there, it is as if all the beauty had gone out of life. Happy Mother's Day!

People who do not love God will be his enemy until they allow God to be the center of their lives. When they do, they will be in their appropriate places as obedient friends of God, and God will be in his appropriate place at the center of their lives. This will happen in our lives at a time when we surrender our personal desires and obey the will of God. If we are to be fruitful for Christ, we must seek his will for our lives and let him lead us to what he wants us to do for others and for him. When we love one another, we fulfill the second of Jesus' two Great Commandments. When we love Jesus, he becomes our true best friend. Friends have our best interests in mind, just like Jesus does. Friends will be with us in good times and bad times just like Jesus is. They help us to expand our world, expose us to new and creative possibilities, and sustain us when we are in need. God has chosen all of us for the purpose of bearing much eternal fruit in such personal characteristics as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. These characteristics will grow within us and help us when we tell others about Jesus and lead them into a fruitful relationship with him.

Our lives, our actions, our love carry and reveal the presence of divine love. Jesus does not give us something, he says we are something. We are the gift. We are the connection. Listen to what he tells the disciples: I love you with the same love that the Father loves me. You have what I have. I give to you the joy that my Father and I share. You are a part of us. You are my joy, my life, and my purpose. I want your joy to be full, complete, whole, and perfect. You are my friends, my peers, my equals. I have told you everything. Nothing is held back or kept secret. I chose you. I picked you. I wanted you. I appointed, ordained, commissioned, and sent you to bear fruit, to love another. I trust and believe you can do this.

It is all about us in the best sense of those words. We are the love of Christ. Our belief in Jesus' words changes how we see ourselves, one another, the world, and the circumstances of our lives. That belief is what allows us to keep his commandment to love one another. When we know these things about ourselves our only response is love. We can do nothing else. We are free to live and more fully become the love of Christ.

God loves us unconditionally. He is the only source of pure, unconditional love. It is in this love that God created us and still sustains us. It is this love that compelled the Son of God to assume a human nature and sacrifice Himself on the cross to save us from sin. It is in this love that we abide by faith. Just as God's love raised Christ from the dead, it promises that He will be with us here on this earth and that we shall be with Him forever in heaven. By faith this love works in us and through us to free us so that we can obey God's command and love our brothers and sisters even as God has loved us. **Amen!**

Bishop's Directive – When attending services we are all required to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, sign in with name and phone number for tracing purposes, and only sit in pews with decals.

6 EASTER

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)

MONDAY

8:00 AM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY – ACENSION DAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

7 EASTER/SUNDAY AFTER ACENSION DAY

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

(also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

SAVE THE DATE: OUTDOOR THRIFT SHOP SALE 10AM-2PM SATURDAY, JUNE 12TH

(RAIN DATE JUNE 19TH)

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

Barbara Curran	Girard Bishop
Arlene Goodenough	Margaret
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Bernie Walther
Nathan Treadwell	Irene
Tyler Gorman	Kim
Chris Dickson	Mo (Rachael)
Michael Echevarria	Warren
Andy	Bill Conklin
Michael & Family	Anthony Paribello
Martinisi Family	Edward Lent
Lois Kessler	Kate Jones
Kathleen	Del

Children who are ill:	Christopher and his family
Franklin Tenesaca	Ciara
Aidan	Gabriel

