

Church of the Divine Love

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 24

OCTOBER 16, 2022

10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Genesis 32:22-31**

Psalm 121

Second Lesson: **2 Timothy 3:14-4:5**

Gradual Hymn –#

Gospel: **Luke 18:1-8**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer C	page 369
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	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn	

Sermon Sunday October 16, 2022

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Our text today introduces us to two people. First, we see an unrighteous judge. This judge is completely pagan and probably in many ways corrupt. He doesn't care about justice or right and wrong. This judge doesn't care about what God thinks nor does he care about what people think. The second person in this story is a widow seeking justice. We're not told the details concerning where she has been wronged, all we're told is she is seeking justice from this unjust judge. She shows us what perseverance is like as she keeps coming back to the judge until she wears him out.

Everyday immigrants, both legal and illegal, come to this country seeking a new life, a better life. Often, they are greeted by words or actions that say, you don't belong here. I don't want to see or hear from you. Throughout the world the poor struggle to survive another day of inadequate food, clothing, shelter, water, medicine, or work. I know a gentleman who everyday fights his need to drink. I know of a woman who lives in fear of her husband's anger and violence. There is a group of parents that meet monthly in Haiti to talk about and share the overwhelming grief they suffer following the death of a child.

These are just a few of the widows in Jesus' parable. The list could go on and on. They pray for and demand a new life. They hope things will change. They seek something different for their life, something other than what they have right now. Day after day it is the same, nothing changes. It is not right. They know it, we know it, and God knows it. They live and some have died standing before the unjust judge. The unjust judge wears many disguises: prejudice, hatred, fear, the disease that won't be healed,

economic systems, death, grief, addiction. Regardless of the disguise the unjust judge neither fears God nor respects people.

Standing before the unjust judge life seems big, powerful, and overwhelming. You feel small, powerless, and alone. There is no one to defend or represent you. You stand by yourself unsure what to believe about life or yourself. No matter what you do or say nothing changes, nothing works. You don't know what else to do so, like the widow in Jesus' parable, day after day you cry out. That is the widow's story in today's parable, in today's world, sometimes even in our own life. Have you ever felt like that? Have you ever stood before the unjust judge?

So, what do we do when we stand before the unjust judge? What do we do when we see another human being standing before the unjust judge? Some will get angry and fight back becoming as hardened and unjust as the judge himself. Some will give up and believe what the unjust judge says, believing that is the final reality of life and it will never get better. Others will blame and accuse God of being the unjust judge. There are a few, however, who will discover and trust the widow's faith. "Pray always and do not lose heart," Jesus says. That is the widow's faith. Day after day she shows up. Day after day she speaks of the injustice done to her. Day after day she holds her pain before the judge, the world, and God.

To pray always does not mean giving God a to do list and then sitting back expecting God to magically fix everything. To pray always means that we offer our cry to God and then we do whatever we can to bring about the change we seek trusting that God also is already doing what God needs to do. Maybe that means we seek counseling or a support group. We feed the hungry. We offer compassion to the grieving. We speak and teach against hatred and prejudice, respecting the dignity of every human being. We strive for justice and peace. We make our case not just before God but with God. We join God in answering our prayer.

Some believe that prayer is about convincing, cajoling, persuading, or wearing down God so God will do what we ask. It is the idea that God is out there somewhere and not here, that God is either unaware or uncaring about us and this world. So, we have to persuade God to show up and act. That only happens if we are good enough, believe the right things, and say the right words enough times. That is not what it means to pray always. If that is what we have been taught or come to believe this parable says otherwise. Jesus rejects that understanding of the relationship between God and his people. God is nothing like the unjust judge. God sees our suffering. God hears our cries. God quickly grants justice. But when?

The widow's faith always involves waiting. How long? When will it change? I don't know. But I do know that waiting does not mean God is absent. Waiting does not mean God is uncaring. Waiting does not mean God is not already active. You see, the widow does not wait on God. She waits with God. To pray always is what keeps her from losing heart. It keeps her showing up day after day trusting that God sees, hears, and acts.

To pray always is what keeps us, in thought, word, and deed, present to and in relationship with God so that when God does act, we will be there. Imagine the tragedy if one day the widow gave up. She just could not stand another day of crying out, pointing to the injustice of her life, holding her pain for the world to see, so she didn't and that was the day the judge ruled, that was the day life changed. I wonder how much of God's life, love, compassion, forgiveness, healing we have missed because we did not

show up. To pray always is what insures we are present so that when the Son of Man comes, he will find faith on earth. He will find us, the widows of the world who refused to let the unjust judge have the final word.

To live the widow's faith may be some of the most difficult and necessary work we do. Pray always and do not lose heart. Jesus does not ask us to do what we cannot do. He does not ask to go where he has not already been. He has lived the widow's faith. He is the archetypal widow. The widow's life and faith, his life and faith, have been given to us. It is already deep within each of us. You already have all that you need to face the unjust judge of this world. So go live like the widows God knows you to be. Embody the good news of God's love that we have received so that others may see and know it, too. Persist in telling the stories that help us recognize and discern the life-giving breath of God moving through generations and all creation. Kindle the gift of God that is within you, already equipping you for this work. **Amen.**

19 PENTECOST	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOW	
	11:30 AM	VESTRY MEETING	
MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
20 PENTECOST	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

The Committee for the Election of a Bishop Coadjutor for our Diocese has announced the following slate:

The Rev. Matthew Foster Heyd The Rev. Stephanie M. Johnson

The Diocese of New York The Diocese of Connecticut

The Rev. Matthew Hoxie Mead The Rev. Steven D. Paulikas

The Diocese of New York The Diocese of Long Island

The Rev. Robert Jemonde Taylor For more info visit

The Diocese of North Carolina bishopsearch.diocesenyc.org

Anthony Giordano will be casting the vote for our parish. Let him know any thoughts you have on the candidates.

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:

Grace Schinella

Harriet Capers

Bob Curley

John Mulligan

Arlene Goodenough

Celeste

Chris Dickson

Kate Jones

Deb P.

Michael Echevarria

John Rocco

Robert Sweat

Barbara Stinson

Michael & Family

Warren

Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Sophia	Carol K.
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Maggie & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim
Nathan Treadwell	Bob Lazevnick	Art
Margaret	Jess	Dana
Victims of Hurricanes	Richard & Family	

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

	This Week	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Giordano	Deb Giordano
Coffee Hour	Judy Golden	Giordanos

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

Storms and Hurricanes

O God, you rule over all creation, which you have set free to act according to its nature. We know and love your world, which is also a world of randomness and chance. You are Lord of chaos as well as order. We pray to you for people caught in storms and hurricanes. We remember particularly those whose work is dangerous, police and firefighters, rescue workers of all kinds. You are known in storm and in calm, you are Lord of thunders, you moved across the hills of Judea. You are also a presence in stillness, a voice from silence. You spoke to Job in the whirlwind and quieted the Sea of Galilee. Wherever we are, in storm or calm, we know your presence. Call us sometimes to storm, sometimes to calm, sometimes to wilderness, sometimes to silence. Call us always to yourself, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

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

