

Church of the Divine Love

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 7

JUNE 19, 2022

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #493 – O for a thousand tongues to sing

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 65:1-9**

Psalm 22:18-27

Second Lesson: **Galatians 3:23-29**

Gradual Hymn – #294 – Baptized in water

Gospel: **Luke 8:26-39**

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 #411 – O bless the Lord, my soul!

Doxology (sung)	
The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
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 – #658 – As longs the deer for cooling streams	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #686 – Come thou fount of every blessing	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday June 19, 2022

Isaiah 65: 1-9; Psalm 22:18-27; Galatians 3:23-29; Luke 8:26-39.

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

Have you ever felt as if the life you are living is not the life you want to live? That somehow your life is not your own or maybe that you have even become a prisoner of your own life? If so, then you have met the Gerasene demoniac, the man in today's gospel. He used to have a home in the city; now he lives in a cemetery among the tombs. He used to be free; now he wears chains and shackles. He used to have relationships, family, and friends; now he has a guard. He used to dress and act like everyone else. For a long time now, he has worn no clothes.

Today we salute our fathers. Dad, we love you. The role of a Christian father is more important in today's world than ever before. Being a dad is a different role than in earlier generations. In most households today Dad is called upon to play more of a nurturing role in caring for children. If Mom works outside the home, Dad must take a more active role, an equal role, in doing household chores. The most common image that Jesus used in describing God was that of Father. It makes me think that Joseph must have been a very special kind of dad. We center much of our attention on his mother, Mary, but Joseph surely combined those very special qualities of strength and gentleness that we associate with Jesus. Parents, our primary mission is not to win a rat race, but to faithfully care for those persons entrusted to us, especially our children. Happy Father's Day to all of you and be blessed!

Today's gospel offers a vivid image of a man separated from society, naked, bound in chains and shackles, living in a cemetery. It is not, however, simply a description of the man's physical life and

environment. If that is all it was about then some clothes, a homeless shelter, some medications, and a pair of bolt cutters would fix his life. End of story. You and I both know that the real challenges of life are not that easily fixed. The real challenges of life are, more often than not, spiritual rather than physical. The tombs, chains, demons, and nakedness are descriptive of this man's interior life. They point to a life separated from God, others, and self. They reveal a soul in need of healing, in need of a new life not just a new environment.

Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion;' for many demons had entered him. He called himself Legion but that is not his true name. That is not who he is. It is, rather, what has become of him, what has happened to him. Let's not get stuck on the demons. That's simply descriptive of the emotional and spiritual disruption and dis-integration of our lives, a reality all of us have experienced. That he knows himself to be Legion means the causes, sources, and manifestations of this disruption and disintegration are many and great. I know there are times when I and my life could rightly be called Legion. I suspect you could say the same thing. At a historical level Legion refers to a Roman army unit of about 6000 soldiers. So, when this man says that he is Legion he is saying, I have been overrun. I am divided and separated. I am fragmented and fractured. I am disrupted. I am overwhelmed. My life is broken into 6000 pieces. This man is lost to himself. He has no center. He no longer understands who he is. He is without an identity. He has been dispossessed of himself and his humanity. His life has been shattered into pieces. He is alien to himself and alienated from his life. All this leaves him vulnerable, naked, exposed, and unclothed. He no longer lives in a house in the city, but in the tombs. He is in essence dead to himself. Who of us does not know what that is like? One day we look in the mirror and say, who are you? I don't recognize you. Other days we say, I don't know what's come over me. I'm just not myself today. Our head is filled with conflicting thoughts and voices. We chase each thought but get nowhere. We listen to each voice but know nothing. There are times when we lose our bearings in life and no longer know who we are or what our life is all about. We silently wonder if we are going crazy. It is a place and time of separation, loneliness, and isolation. We are exiled from ourselves and each other.

We know what this man's life is like. Each of us could talk about a time when our life was shattered and left in thousands of pieces that we just could not put back together. Dreams and hopes. A marriage. The death of a loved one. Faith and beliefs. We know what it is like to lose our self, our life, our name, and identity. We know what it is like to be Legion. I don't know what in your life has shattered. I don't know the thousands of pieces with which you live. I don't know the Legion of your life. You have those answers, but I can tell you this. Whatever it might be it is the place to which Christ comes. Jesus comes to the Legion of our lives. He did for the man in today's gospel, and he does for each one of us. Jesus steps out onto the land of this foreign country, the land of Legion. He comes to us as the one with inner clarity, focus, knowing, and understanding. He is the presence of unity, wholeness, and integration. He is the image of who we are and who we can become. That's why we continue to seek and follow Jesus as our teacher, guide, and savior. He is and has the life we want.

Jesus comes unafraid of death or the tombs in which this man lives. He is not distracted by the man's craziness. He is not repulsed by the man's nakedness or appearance. He is not limited by the chains and shackles that bind this man's life. He is unchallenged by the guard. Legion holds no power over Jesus. When the man saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, what have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Highest God? Within that question are recognition and nonrecognition, likeness and unlikeness, sameness, and difference. The man knows Jesus is nothing like him and yet,

something within the man knows he is like Jesus. Something within him can still recognize Jesus; the divine one, the one who saves, the one who is whole, complete, and holy.

We can only ever recognize that which we already know that which at some level is already a part of us. Despite the presence of Legion, the true image of and within this man was never completely lost or destroyed. It may have been taken over, covered up, forgotten, denied, or ignored but it was never absent. It was this true image, a reflection of Jesus himself, that recognized Jesus. That is as true for us as it is the man in today's gospel. Jesus stands before us as the mirror, the image, the truth-teller of who we really are. He gives us back ourselves. He reveals the original beauty of our creation. He stands before us with a truth that challenges us at the places in which our lives have become fragmented and distorted, in the ways in which we are not true to ourselves, and in the times when our identity has been lost and shattered.

Yes, we know what it is like to be Legion. We can tell that story. For every story about Legion, however, there is a counter story. It is the story of our how our life was put back together, how we were given back ourselves, how we were seated at the feet of Jesus. It's the story Jesus wants told. We need to tell it. Others need to hear it. There is nothing you encounter in life or death, nothing you have done or left undone, no circumstance of the world around you or the one within you that is not subject to the power of Jesus, the power to restore life, to forgive, to love, to heal, and to carry you through times you cannot bear on your own. In Christ chains are broken, nakedness is clothed, tombs are vacated, and demons are powerless. **Amen!**

2 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
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	
3 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
	10:00 AM	VESTRY MEETING	

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Deb Giordano
Altar Guild	Roe Prosser	Deb Giordano
	Marie Quatorze	Jess Berbeck

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:

Carol K.	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Julia	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Theresa K.
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Dorothy
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Vincent

Maggie & Family

People of Ukraine

Amy E.

Nathan Treadwell

Christopher & Family

Tim

Bob Lazevnick

Jen & Family

Anthony

John Mulligan

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

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