

Church of the Divine Love

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 6

JUNE 18, 2023 9:00 A.M.

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) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Exodus 19:2-8a**

Psalm 100

Second Lesson: **Romans 5:1-8**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Matthew 9:35 – 10:8, (9-23)**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

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

Hymn during Consecration – on insert

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 #

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday June 18, 2023

Genesis 18:1-15, (21:1-7); Psalm 116:1,10-17; Romans 5:1-8; Matthew 9:35-10:8(9-23).

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

In this Gospel reading, Jesus was traveling to villages and towns, teaching and preaching in the synagogues. He was proclaiming the Gospel of his Kingdom. He also was curing many people who were ill or in need. Matthew says: when Jesus saw the multitudes, He was filled with deep compassion for them. Jesus recognized how lost, hungry and alone the people were. Truly, they were sheep without a shepherd. They had no one to tend them or care for them.

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. Being a great father is like shaving. No matter how good you shaved today, you have to do it again tomorrow. When you need real understanding, when you need someone to care, when you need someone to guide you, a father's always there. Happy Father's Day to all of you!

Jesus then called His twelve disciples. He gave them the power and ability to heal, to drive out spirits and to cure every disease. Jesus then instructed them to find the lost sheep of Israel. He gave them the power to heal and to drive out unclean spirits. I wonder how the twelve apostles responded to what Jesus said? Were they awed? Did they believe that they would be able to heal or to drive out unclean spirits? Or were they skeptical? Doubting? They must have been excited and felt empowered. However, I would guess they also must have had some doubts! Were they asking themselves: who am I to work wonders like this?

Today Jesus also is giving us power to heal! We may heal by listening to another person. Or we may heal by giving an unexpected gift of our time or ability. We simply may heal by truly seeing another person. We also have the ability to heal. Do we believe this? Do we use our gift of healing? Who will we reach out to today? We can heal with a touch, with loving words, or perhaps by simply listening to another with our full attention! Likewise, we need an end to all our affliction. An end to all our sin. And Christ sends a shepherd to proclaim that our sins have indeed been forgiven. The sacrifice of Christ's body and Christ's blood is a ransom worth more than any silver or gold. That Jesus took our every sin, and all the sins of humanity, put them on His shoulders, and died with them on the cross. So even the afflictions we bring on ourselves. The afflictions we face because of the sin of someone else. Jesus has answered them all.

That's what it means to proclaim that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. That's what it means to proclaim that God's Kingdom is here. Because Jesus is here. Through His Word. Through His forgiveness. Through His cleaning baptism. Through His Holy Supper. Here is Christ for you. Right now. Today. Jesus has called you. And God calls pastors a lot the same way he calls people to be part of His Church. As Paul says in our Epistle lesson, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Congregations, Jesus' Church in a particular place, call shepherds to serve them by giving out that Gospel. Delivering the good news that the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Delivering the good news that sin is forgiven, evident in the washing of regeneration that is baptism. Delivering the good news that death has been undone through the very body and blood of Christ.

What did Jesus see when he looked at the crowds? Jesus saw that the people were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Jesus sees people who are distressed and downcast. What I want us to see that Jesus does not merely look at the sin but looks at the reason for their sinning. They are harassed, distressed, helpless, and lost. Jesus' solution is the proclaiming of the gospel. The solution to every person's situation is the gospel. The gospel is the only answer that can provide help and hope to the world. Jesus has come as the compassionate shepherd.

We need to think about how do we look at people in the world. Are we disgusted when we look at sinful people? Are we angry at them? Do we feel hatred for them? We need to have compassion for people who are confused by gender identity. We need to have compassion for people who are living without God in their lives. Most of these people were never given the moral compass of Jesus. They are confused. They are lost. They are distressed. They are downcast. They are looking for joy and satisfaction for life in all the wrong places. Do we look at the condition of people in the world and are moved with compassion? This does not mean that we overlook sins. It does not mean that we do not show the world what sins are and why they matter. Proclaiming the gospel includes the need to do this. But that does not mean that we do not have compassion for people who are involved in these sins.

Wherever and however, we serve our fellow men, we are called to be messengers. When you are harassed and feeling helpless, the shepherds God has given you, welcome you home to be rejuvenated and nourished. Jesus died and rose for you! Eternal salvation is yours! Receiving God's mercy through His Word and His shepherds, you will know you are no longer dead but alive. Not in the sense that hitting your thumb with a hammer lets you know you are alive because it hurts, but it the relief that you are indeed forgiven, and the burden of your trespasses is carried by Christ. Now you belong to something much larger than yourself. It isn't that God will answer your prayers in the way you think they should be answered. He may not send you money, or a promotion at work, though He may if it is His will. He may not take away physical pain and discomfort, though He might. Instead, However, He does send you something that passes into you that wasn't a part of your nature before but works through you, giving you life and hope. He offers you forgiveness. You have the promise of eternal life.

Jesus looked at sinful people and had compassion. He knew they needed healing. He knew they needed the gospel. He knew that they needed him and the help he could offer. We must see people in the same way. How can we look at sinful people in this way? By remembering that Jesus looked at you this way. We must be grateful that Jesus was not disgusted by our sins. Jesus did not turn away from us because we were worthy of God's wrath. Jesus was not angry with us but was moved with compassion and came to save us. We need to see that the harvest is abundant. The problem is not with the harvest. The problem is that we lack workers. Pray for workers and be the answer to the prayer. Do not run from the field. Step into the field, tell people about Jesus, knowing that some will listen and some will not. But some will listen. Some are seeking. Some are looking for something more. Let us be ambassadors for Christ. Let us be the priests and ministers of our God who reach out to bring people to Jesus. **Amen.**

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

MONDAY 8:30 PM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP
8:30 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

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

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Giordano	Deb Giordano

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:

Grace Schinella	Lourdes S.	Kaylee
Bob Curley	Arlene Goodenough	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Bethany
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Phil Ryder	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
Mary & Family	Christopher	Amy
Nathan Treadwell	Vincent	Judy
Celeste and Family		

All people and countries suffering from violence and hatred.

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

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,

form 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

