

Church of the divine love

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 28

NOVEMBER 17, 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: **Daniel 12:1-3**

Psalm 16

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Mark 13:1-8**

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 November 17, 2024

Daniel 12: 1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10: 11-14, (15-18), 19-25; Mark 13: 1-8.

Beloved in Christ,

One day the great buildings and structures of our life will fall. The very things that we often trust and rely upon to give identity, meaning, purpose, and security will crumble. This is not a prediction of the future or a forecast of doom and gloom. It is just a statement of reality. Life changes, loved ones die, institutions fail, people disappoint, relationships break up, bodies get sick. In those moments the great stones of our temples are all thrown down.

Each of us is a temple builder. We build all sorts of temples: personas, families, beliefs and opinions, institutions, roles, reputations, accomplishments, dreams, and hopes. We build temples with the idea that they will contain and support our lives. The problem is not in building temples but in expecting them to do and be more than they can. Too often we confuse the structure for the content, the place of divinity for the Divine. Stone upon stone we build our temples with the expectations, sometimes spoken and sometimes unconscious, that these great structures will provide ultimate meaning, impenetrable security, permanent order, and unchanging direction for our life and world. The temple in today's gospel is more than just a building in Jerusalem, more than a place of worship. It was the center and anchor of Jewish life. It provided identity, structure, and meaning just like our temples of today. The disciples are impressed. "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" They are, however, looking only

on outward appearances. Jesus is not as impressed. This is his third and last visit to the temple. The first time, he went into the temple, “looked around at everything” (**Mk. 11:11**), and left. The second time he went in the temple he drove out the buyers and sellers, overturned the moneychangers’ tables, and left (**Mk. 11:15-19**). On his third visit Jesus was in conflict with the temple leaders (**Mk. 11:27-12:40**). He sat in opposition to the temple treasury while a poor widow “put in everything she had, all she had to live on” (**Mk. 11:41-44**). He leaves the temple for the last time and asks his disciples, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down” (**Mk. 13:2**). It’s not a threat or a forecast, just a statement of truth. One day it will happen.

Regardless of how or when it comes about, the day our temple falls is the day our life and our world have forever been changed. It feels like the end of the world and as if all is lost. In that day earthquakes shake the foundations on which we stand. There is no stability. Famine leaves us empty and denies us any sense of satisfaction. Wars divide and fragment the unity of our life and relationships. Other voices tempt us with easy answers and shallow explanations. This is not so much about the end of the world as it is about the end of the many worlds, temples, and great buildings we have created for ourselves. When the great buildings begin to shake the temptation is to shore up the foundation, add some mortar, make it stronger, put it all back together. That’s not what Jesus says to do. Our spiritual work in those days is to not be alarmed or afraid, to be faithful and not be led astray, to be watchful, present, and attentive. It is a time for patient waiting. The day our temple falls is much more about revelation than destruction. With every true revelation there is always a falling away. It is the falling away of illusion. Fallen temples hold before us a truth and reality about our self, life, or world that we have denied, ignored, forgotten, or simply refused to see. It is always a painful process to see our great buildings fall and be confronted by the reality and truth revealed in that fall. Fallen temples confront us, forcing us to decide between reality and illusion, between life and death. They ask us hard questions about where we put our trust. The day our great buildings fall is the day we begin to face our corruptibility and impermanence so that we might know the incorruptibility and permanence of God. We face our temporal nature so that we might discover God’s eternal nature. Barrenness and emptiness precede the joys of the birth pangs. Fallen temples are not about loss and destruction but about birth and creation. Our God is the God of life not death, the God of creation not destruction. Every moment of every day new life is being created and given us. So, I wonder: What temples of your life are falling or need to fall? What new truth or reality is being shown to you? How might God be creating and birthing new life in you?

It’s a gospel about hope. It’s a gospel about opportunities and possibilities. It’s a gospel about finding meaning and new life. It’s a gospel about your future and my future. And who among doesn’t sometimes wonder, worry, or even become alarmed about our future and the future of the world? I’ve come to realize that when I become alarmed about the future I’m not really focused on the unknown and a time yet to come. I’m really more focused on the known and the present time. I want to know if the temples I’ve built will withstand the test of time. Will the center hold? Will my relationships endure? Will my acquisitions and accomplishments continue to give identity, meaning, and security or at least a numbing illusion of those things? Will the systems I’ve created for my life, well-being, and happiness remain intact? Are the foundations of my life stable and strong enough to last? In other words, I’m focused on

the large stones and large buildings of my life. So, when I hear Jesus say, “Not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down,” I get a bit twitchy. Maybe you do too. Jesus says the very things that I am most focused on are coming down. I can’t help but wonder if I’ve missed the point and been distracted from what really matters, from the new life that is waiting and wanting to be birthed through me. Maybe that’s what is going on with the disciple who says to Jesus, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Maybe he’s missed the point and distracted himself from what really matters and is calling for attention.

I say that for a couple of reasons. First, what this disciple says doesn’t make sense to me. This surely wasn’t the first time this disciple, an adult Jewish man, had been to or seen the temple. He had probably grown up going to the temple. He’d gone to the temple with Jesus at least twice before this day (**Mark 11:11,15**). The large stones and buildings of the temple were not new to him. He’d seen it all before. Second, there’s a disconnect between what he says and what has just happened. Jesus and his disciples have just left the temple where they sat opposite the treasury watching the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums but a poor widow put in one penny, all that she had. Jesus says to his disciples, “Truly I tell you; this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury.” (**Mark 12:41-44**) With those words Jesus has cracked the mortar between the stones of power, wealth, prestige, reputation, position, and security. A separation has begun.

Having faith in a loving, steadfast, ever-present, midwife God doesn’t mean that we will get the outcome we desire; it doesn’t mean we won’t fear or doubt or be anxious or suffer. But it does allow us to bring all of those things into the larger vision of God’s future. And when we do that, our suffering is given some meaning, our hopes are given content and shape, and we are reminded of who we are and what we can do: namely, we are children of God who are entrusted with giving birth to God’s love in our own lives, in our communities, in our world. No matter how long the birth pangs last. May God grant us grace to do it. **Amen.**

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – Boxes are at the back of the church. Last day to return is Sunday, November 24th.

Please remember to turn in your pledge card by Sunday, Dec. 1st

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 28

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

SATURDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 29

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Anthony Giordano
Coffee	Janet Croft	Erika Febres

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	Lynette
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	Wendy

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.

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

