

Church of the Divine Love
SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 5, 2024 10:15 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#494 – Crown him with many crowns**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

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

Psalm 98

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

Gradual Hymn **#412 – Earth and all stars**

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

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 **#671 – Amazing grace! how sweet the sound**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 367
Hymn during Consecration (printed on insert)	
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – One Bread One Body (on insert)	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn – Here I am to worship (on insert)	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday May 5, 2024

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

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

You did not choose me," Jesus said to his disciples in today's gospel reading, "but I chose you." And it's true. Jesus chose his disciples. And when he did, he was continuing a long tradition that we see throughout scripture, and throughout the history of the church, of God choosing unlikely people to accomplish surprising tasks.

I want to share a few examples of this with you this morning. And as I do, I want you to be thinking about how God has chosen you, too; and of what that might mean for your life of faith. Let's go back to Genesis. There are many examples of people being chosen by God for surprising tasks, people like Noah, and Abraham and Sarah. But the example I want to share with you is that of Joseph. One of Jacob's twelve sons, and the one that Jacob loved most. The one with the coat of many colors. The one the other brothers hated so much that they sold him to some people headed for Egypt. Joseph unexpectedly became quite successful in Egypt, and after a long journey with many twists and turns, including time in

prison after being unjustly accused, Joseph became second only to Pharaoh, and helped Egypt prepare for a great famine. Why? Well, God had a plan for Joseph. As he explained to his brothers, “Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today.” Joseph was chosen by God to preserve God’s chosen people.

Fast forward to the time of Moses, whom God also chose to preserve God’s chosen people, and to free them from slavery in Egypt. Moses, of course, should have died as a baby, along with all of the Israelites at that time. But his mother placed him in a papyrus basket and entrusted him to God by sending the basket down the river. Pharaoh’s daughter spotted the basket, and rescued the baby, and he grew up in Pharaoh’s household. After he had grown up, he saw his people being beaten, and retaliated by killing an Egyptian. He fled to Midian, got married and became a shepherd. Until God chose him to confront Pharaoh and lead God’s people to freedom. An unlikely choice, if there ever was one, but who turned out to be the perfect choice, because God made it that way.

And then there’s David, the youngest of Jesse’s sons, and the least likely to be anointed king by Samuel. But he was a small, mighty warrior who killed lions and bears defending his sheep, and who would kill Goliath, too. A poet and musician who became a great leader; but most of all, a man after God’s own heart. Chosen by God to be king. But let’s not forget people like Mary, the young virgin from the small town of Nazareth, that no one would have expected to become the mother of God’s son. Such an unexpected choice. But Mary had a remarkable faith, an open heart, and a willingness to do whatever God asked of her. She turned out to be the perfect choice, but only God could have known that. I could go on, of course. There are countless examples in scripture of people being chosen by God, who had no other real qualifications, except that they were selected by God for these tasks.

Jesus was continuing a long tradition, started by his heavenly Father, of making surprising choices to do God’s work. And the disciples were no different. Fishermen, tax collectors, not a religious leader among them. No experts in God’s teachings, no scholars. If anyone was asked to pick a team to start the church, the disciples would not have even made the Junior Varsity, or the practice squad. They only had one thing going for them: Jesus chose them. There in that upper room, right before Jesus is arrested, I suspect that Jesus could see that they needed to be reminded of this. That he chose them. They were all scared, anxious, confused. They knew that one of their own had just left to betray Jesus. They heard Jesus say that their leader, Peter, would soon deny even knowing Jesus. Jesus had commanded them to love one another, reminded them to abide in him, told them that he would be leaving soon, to prepare a place for them. They really didn’t know what to think of any of this. They needed to remember that Jesus chose them. They didn’t choose him. He chose them – those particular people, after prayer and discernment. To continue to bring Jesus into this world, and to bear his fruit, fruit that will last. They may not have felt particularly qualified to do this, or very confident that they could pull it off. Except for one very important thing: Jesus chose them.

Those disciples were chosen by God’s Son for a particular purpose in this world. But they’re not the only ones. In fact, if scripture tells us anything, it is that each and every one of us has also been chosen by God for a particular purpose in this world. In Ephesians, for example, Paul tells us that we were chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world for a particular purpose, which God prepared beforehand to be

our way of life. In Colossians, Paul tells us that we are “God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved.” And how about First Peter? When Peter, that unlikely leader of the apostles, tells us that we are “a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God’s people.” Chosen by God to proclaim God’s mighty acts. Chosen by God – hand-picked you might say – and appointed to bear the fruit of God’s love in this world.

Do you remember Esther? The young Jewish girl in the Old Testament, who was chosen by God to save God’s chosen people from being killed by the Persian king? She is chosen by the king to become his wife and the queen. Why? In her cousin Mordecai’s words, “Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this. “Who knows? Perhaps you and I have been chosen by Jesus, to be his disciples, for just such a time as this. Our world needs healing. Our world needs hope. Our world needs to be reminded of God’s love for us all. And who knows? Perhaps we have been chosen for just such a time as this. If ever there was a time for the church to be the church, it is certainly now. And we are the church. We are the ones that, for whatever reason, God has chosen for this task. We are God’s surprising choices to accomplish this unexpected task, of bringing healing and hope to our post-pandemic world. 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.

The challenge of our search is not to find the answers but to believe and live them. Who are we? The love of Christ. What are the connections that will sustain our lives? The love of Christ. Where is my place in this world? The love of Christ. In, by, with, and through the love of Christ all shall be well, all shall be well, every manner of thing shall be well. The words that Jesus spoke to those first disciples; he speaks to every one of us today: “You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you to go and bear fruit. “May God bless you and help you to bring the light of Jesus into our world, and to bear the fruit of his love. **Amen.**

6 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also om zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
	11:15 AM	VESTRY MEETING
MONDAY	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
SAURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
7 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II (also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Jess Berbeck	Roe Prosser
Coffee	Prossers	Janet Croft

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Saturday, June 1st – Clean-up Day
 Sunday, June 2nd – Closing of Nursery School with Bishop Hyde
 Sunday, June 9th – 9AM services begin

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:

Manetta Family	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
John Mulligan	John Rocco	Judy
Warren	Donna A.	Kristen

Christopher	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Jerry & Family	Phil Ryder	Henry
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Robert Hosey	Beverly Noel	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
Mary & Family	Ciara	Jan
Grace Schinella	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Marjorie Guerrier	Joseph
Nathan Treadwell	Jean Estenvil Quatorze	

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

