

**Church of the Divine Love**  
**TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 12**

**JULY 28, 2024 9:00 AM**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

*Please observe silence*

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **2 Kings 4:42-44**

Psalm 145:10-19

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 3:14-21**

Gospel: **John 6:1-21**

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

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	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday July 28, 2024**

2 Kings 4:42-44; Psalm 145:10-19; Ephesians 3: 14-21; John 6: 1-21.

#### **Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so, also the fish, as much as they wanted.

Philip has done the math. He has estimated the number of people in the crowd, how many loaves of bread it would take to feed them, the cost of a loaf of bread, and calculated that “six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” There is not enough to go around. Andrew concurs, “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” Actually, it is one fish for every 2500 people and one loaf for every 1000 people or, based upon a loaf of bread from our local grocery store, one slice for about every 45 people. Andrew has done the math and there is just not enough to go around.

It seems that is how we often approach life – by doing the math. We count what is there though we too often focus on what is not there. And pretty soon the reality of our circumstances blinds us to the possibilities of what might be. Our vision becomes narrow and the world small. We are unable to see a way forward, unable to see the Christ in our midst. We see through the lens of scarcity or lack. As long as we approach life by doing the math, as a problem to be solved, there will never be enough to go around. Jesus was not asking Philip to do the math when he said to him, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” It was a test. Would Philip look around or would he look within? Would he see with his physical eyes or with the eyes of his heart? Would he focus on what was not there or would he focus on Jesus? The problem was not a lack of fish and bread but a lack of vision. The abundance of God’s

presence is hidden in plain view and often within the illusion of scarcity. Abundance is less a resource to be counted and more an interior quality, a presence, a way of being and seeing.

Every day we encounter the 5000 in our self, our friends and families, in our relationships, in our work, in our faith, prayers, and churches, in our challenges, hopes, and dreams.... "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat? "As long as we look at the world through the lens of scarcity, we will never have enough. And as long as we seek to feed our spiritual hunger with the things of this world, we will never find that hunger fulfilled. Today's gospel reading, and the ones that follow, are intended to teach us both of these fundamental truths. That with Jesus, there is always enough. And without Jesus, there is never enough. It doesn't take an economist to figure out that they don't have enough to feed this crowd. But the problem is that these disciples are looking at this situation as economists, not as followers of Jesus. They are convinced that they don't have enough, because they are focused on what they don't have. And they are forgetting what they do have. What they do have is Jesus.

Jesus has been performing all of these miracles, and his disciples have been witnessing these amazing displays of his power. So, why wouldn't Jesus be able to feed this crowd? The disciples don't believe that Jesus can. Why? Because when you look at the world through the lens of scarcity, there is never enough of anything. It is almost as if these disciples are looking at Jesus as a scarce resource, only able to do so much. And they want to make sure that they use this resource carefully. But Jesus is not a scarce resource! With Jesus, there is always enough! Do We Have Enough? But it's difficult to do, isn't it? To look at the world through the lens of abundance? Everything around us teaches us that it's not true. Even when we have enough, we are taught, in many and various ways, that we need more.

The truth is that most of us who are listening to me have enough. We have enough food to eat, enough clothes, shelter, and on and on. But very few of us, if we are being honest, really feel as though we have enough. And that is true for most people in our society. And this can create a restlessness, and a feeling of discontent, that can be hard to shake. Now, of course there are also many people in our country, and in our world that are hungry, that are homeless, and that clearly do not have enough. And there are some who wonder whether there isn't a connection between the two. A connection between the feeling that we don't have enough, because we are taught to look at the world through the lens of scarcity, and the reality that there are many in our world that actually do not have enough. By the way, did you notice that in today's gospel reading, the first thing that Jesus does with the five loaves of bread is to give thanks? He is not worried about what he doesn't have. He is thankful for what he does. And after giving thanks, he distributed the bread to the five thousand; so also, the fish, as much as they wanted. They all ate their fill. And then, he began to teach them what it all means.

As I mentioned, we will be spending the next several Sundays looking at this important teaching. For now, it is perhaps enough to simply remember that with Jesus, there is always enough. We may not feel as though we have enough. Enough wealth. Or enough time. Or even enough faith. Or enough hope. Sometimes, it may seem like all we have is a couple of loaves of bread, a few fish, and thousands to feed. What can we accomplish with that? Jesus doesn't play by the rules of economics. And so, in this great

story, Jesus teaches us a different way of looking at the world, his way. Through the lens of abundance, not of scarcity. And looking at the world this way changes how you live in the world. When we see the world through the lens of abundance, not scarcity, amazing things can happen.

But this gospel miracle is there to remind us that what we have is much more than five loaves and two fish. What we have is Jesus. And Jesus is always enough. Jesus is always willing to take whatever meager gifts we are willing to share, and bless them, and us, as we share them with the world. And Jesus makes sure that it is always enough.

I guess you could call this gospel economics. With Jesus, there is always enough. Without Jesus, there is never enough. With Jesus, five loaves of bread and two fish is more than enough to feed five thousand. And, in fact, just to emphasize his point, Jesus made sure that there was actually more than enough. Twelve baskets of leftovers. We clearly worship a God of abundance, not scarcity. This is the miracle of the gospel. This is the joy at the heart of our faith. And it is the reason I am a pastor, and not an economist. To keep proclaiming, in many and various ways, that with Jesus there is always enough. Enough love. Enough hope. Enough grace. Enough faith. And enough time, talent, and treasure, too. Enough of all that matters, and all that our world hungers for.

So come to Jesus, wherever you are today, and be fed with the living bread from heaven, which alone can feed your hungry souls. And then go, in the name of Jesus, to feed the hungry of our world with the bread of life. Share what you have: your faith, hope, and love, and your time, talent, and treasure. And never doubt that with Jesus, what we have, and what we give, will always be more than enough. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

#### TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 12

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

#### ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 13

	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Deb Giordano
Coffee	Erika Febres	Nolans

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:

Manetta Family	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
John Mulligan	John Rocco	Evelyn
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	Ciara
Mary & Family	Ann Turco	Jan
Grace Schinella	Gladys Hadija	Vincent

Michael & Family

Matthew Treasure

Mo

Michelle & Baby

Marjorie Guerrier

Joseph

Nathan Treadwell

Danielle

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](mailto: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







