

Church of the Divine Love
EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 11

JULY 18, 2021

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #693, v 1,3,4,5 – **Just as I am**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (S-280 in hymnal) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Jeremiah 23:1-6**

Psalm 23

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 2:11-22**

Gradual Hymn #525, v 1,4,5 – **Ye holy angels bright**

Gospel: **Mark 6:30-34, 53-56**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn – #518 – **Christ is made the sure foundation**

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread	page 364
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn #664 – My shepherd will supply my need	
Post Communion Prayer	page 366
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #493 – O for a thousand tongues to sing	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday July 18, 2021

Jeremiah 23: 1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6: 30-34,53-56

Dear people of God,

How many of you have had days where you are rushing from one appointment, event, or chore to another without having time to get rest or have a decent meal? How many of you have had days that have been so busy that you did not have time to cook and instead went to a fast-food restaurant?

Jesus set an example for setting boundaries and limits. He said yes, many times, but he also said no many times. When the demands on him became too great and he found himself physically and spiritually exhausted, he withdrew to a private place. He recognized that he needed time to stop, reflect, pray, and nourish his inner life. After all, he was God, but he was also human, and along with that came the physical needs of nourishment and rest. There is an uneasy balance between retreat and meeting people's needs. If we want to be like Jesus, we must be moved by people's pain and do what we can to ease their pain. At the same time, we must educate them with a clear explanation of the Gospel. How we do this is a question each of us has to answer for ourselves because the answer will be different for each of us. The answer will depend on the gifts God has given us.

Jesus displayed his concern for practical matters. Even though he was tired, he ministered to the needy souls because they needed spiritual leadership. Jesus showed compassion by staying to teach them. Compassion arises within Jesus when he sees the same sign in the crowd that he sees in a flock of sheep without a shepherd. They were lost, hysterical, wandering aimlessly and hopeless. Jesus understood their needs and responded in compassion. We are the same. On our own, we are defenseless. We are not united. Each one of us tries to do our own thing. We are vulnerable just like sheep are vulnerable without a shepherd. Jesus chose to help the people without taking advantage of them. He helped them by teaching them, organizing them, speaking for them, and feeding them. He taught them many things to build the foundation of truth that would sustain them when life was hard, and he was not with them in person.

The people wanted miracles because they believed they could not meet their own needs, but Jesus kept asking them to feed each other. He kept telling them they could meet their own needs in one another and find the fullness of life they sought in one another. They needed to believe in themselves. We also want miracles today. Sometimes we believe that we cannot meet our own needs, but we can meet our

own needs in each other. We can find fullness of life when we come together in fellowship and worship. We can believe in ourselves. Jesus does not discriminate when it comes to healing. He does not sort out easy diseases or desirable people. What he does look for is a show of faith and determination. He does not force healing on anyone, nor does he reward those who play games. He even healed the thankless, the hardened and the selfish. Remember the story of the ten lepers? Jesus healed all of them, but only one returned and gave thanks to Jesus. Jesus set the example for caring and we as members of the church need to follow this example. The church needs to have the same reputation today. The church needs to address both the spiritual and the physical needs of the people. The church needs to be a servant church. If we want to lead like Jesus, we must touch and change the lives of those around us. We must be aware of the needs of those around us and use our resources to meet their needs. We need to have compassion for other people. We must not see people as an interruption. We must see them as an opportunity to reveal God's loving care and compassion to meet their needs. We must see people as God sees them-sheep who need a shepherd. The best way to know that we are looking at life the way God does is to consider how we see other people. That is the true test of our spiritual maturity. Jesus had compassion for the crowd, but he also had compassion for his disciples. His disciples had just returned from a long and exhausting ministry trip, so he told them to come and rest awhile. They did not have time to eat. Discipleship must strike a balance between service and renewal. Without this balance, the stress can be debilitating.

All of us need time alone with Christ. Only he can heal and renew our tired bodies. This is especially true because of modern technology. We have instant access to one another, but we cannot escape this access. We need to take a Sabbath or a sabbatical from technology just like we need to take a Sabbath and spend time with God. Our Christian life is a marathon, not a sprint. We need to have endurance to reach our heavenly rest. We need diligence in serving the Lord and diligence in taking time to rest. If we do not take time to rest, we will come apart physically. Medicine tells us that many of our physical problems are a result of the lack of rest. We will also come apart spiritually if we do not take time for spiritual renewal and time with God. When we come away to our own deserted places, we are renewed and refreshed by God's love. God is with us in our joys and our trials. God will be with us to the end. Jesus looks on us with compassion as he teaches us that we belong to him. We can go on in our daily lives and share God's love and truth.

Jesus means compassion. He knows what we need. We need Jesus to save us from ourselves. We need Jesus to save us from evil. We need Jesus to do more for us than what we hope or imagine that he ought to do in any given situation. Jesus' compassion and authority will help us to get through the storms of life. They will also cast out our sin-filled nature. We will be cleansed and made pure, and we will have access to a God that loves us very much. Jesus is available. His presence is sure. His strength is positive. He fills the emptiness of our lives. We serve a compassionate God.

When we come to a deserted place, God welcomes us with his healing grace and peace. He renews us and sends us out to share his gifts with the world. When we get tired, we come to God for rest and refreshment, and then the cycle continues. Churches are called on to be those deserted places where we can find the rest and refreshment God wants to give us. The church provides an experience of God's grace, peace, and healing. When we are renewed by the church, we can go out into the world and show God's love and compassion to a hurting world. **Amen!**

8 PENTECOST

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

10:00 AM VESTRY MEETING

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

9 PENTECOST

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

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Two cemetery plots for sale by owner. Price reduced to \$1500 each.

Must be a parishioner to be buried there. Contact Bob Gilbon at

845-399-0945, or bob.gilbon@gmail.com.

Prayer for Grace and Favor:

Dear God, we ask that you provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but say, "these are the ones that the Lord has blessed." Shine your light in us, through us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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:

Girard Bishop	Dorothy	Lois Kessler
Nathan Treadwell	John Loubengeiger	Chris Dickson
Michael Echevarria	Francisco Febres	Del
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Kathleen
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	James
Julia	Mo (Rachael)	Warren
Bill Conklin	Anthony Paribello	Kate Jones
Barbara Curran	Edward Lent & family	Irene
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Christopher & his family	Aidan
Elodie	Ciara	Gabriel

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.

