

**Church of the Divine Love**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 13**

**AUGUST 4, 2024 9:00 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: **Exodus 16:2-4, 9-15**

Psalm 78:23-29

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 4:1-16**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **John 6:24-35**

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 of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday August 4, 2024**

Exodus 16: 2-4, 9-15; Psalm 78: 23-29; Ephesians 4: 1-16; John 6: 24-35.

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

We live as hungry people in a hungry world. Everyone is looking for something that will sustain and nourish life, something that will feed and energize, something that will fill and satisfy. Everyone is looking for bread. The problem is not that we are hungry, but the kind of bread we eat.

Think about the varieties of bread being eaten in our lives and in the world today. King David is surely not the only one to have ever eaten the bread of betrayal, adultery, or murder. In Syria both sides are eating the bread of violence and war. Republicans and Democrats share the bread of negativity, hostility, and name-calling. Many of us eat the bread of having to be right and get our way. We eat the bread of hurt feelings and resentment. Sometimes we eat the bread of loneliness, fear, and isolation. There are times we eat the bread of sorrow or guilt. Other times we eat the bread of power and control.

Sometimes we eat the bread of revenge or one upmanship. We eat all kinds of bread. The bread we eat reveals something about the nature of our appetites.

"You are what you eat" was a popular saying in the 1960s. It was the title of a book published in 1940. But the origin and truth of this statement go much further and deeper. In 1863 the German philosopher Ludwig Feuerbach said, "Man is what he eats." Before him a Frenchman named Savarin said, "Tell me what you eat and I will tell you what you are." And before that a first century Jew named Jesus said, "Eat perishable food and you will die. Eat food that endures and you will have eternal life," or words to that effect. What we take in, the way in which we nourish ourselves, determines our health and well-being not only physically but emotionally, and spiritually. Ultimately, it determines whether we are alive or dead. "You are what you eat" is not simply about the food on our plates. It is a deeply religious idea. Hunger is not merely a physical condition. Hunger is first of all a spiritual state and at its deepest reality it is hunger for God. Human beings are by nature hungry. We eat in order to live. Behind all our hungers, desires, and longings is our desire for God. That desire, however, does not originate in us. Rather, it is actually a response to God's desire for us. There exists between God and humanity a mutual longing and desire – a hunger for one another.

God creates humanity to be hungry and then offers to satisfy that hunger with God's own life and attributes. That is the food that endures, the bread come down from heaven that gives life to the world. It is the bread of joy, peace, humility, surrender, unity, beauty, generosity, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, wisdom, truth, faith, hope, love. This is the bread that satisfies. This is the bread of life embodied in the person of Jesus Christ. We take him into ourselves in order that we might become him. After all, we are what we eat. Sometimes, however, we settle for the illusion of being full rather than seeking the reality of divine presence, the reality of satisfaction. That is what the crowd in today's gospel is seeking. Like them we often search for food that perishes instead of food that endures. Just one week ago they ate their fill of bread and fish. Five loaves and two fish filled 5000 people. Today they are back for more. They ate the fish and bread but missed the divine presence so abundantly before them. "Do not work for the food that perishes but for food that endures to eternal life," Jesus tells them. Unless they change their appetite, they will return empty tomorrow, the day after, and the day after that

I suspect most of us know what that is like – the emptiness, restlessness, and hunger that never go away – the continual searching day after day. We eat, become full, but are never really satisfied. More often than not, in those times, we have eaten the food that perishes. We have eaten the bread of fear, sorrow, loss, judgment, anger, resentment, arrogance, lies, self-doubt, ego, false-pride, self-hatred, regret, power, control. And we are left empty. Every day we choose the food we will eat. Every day we choose the food we will feed others – our friends and families, those in need, strangers, our enemies, the world, even the church. This choice is not a simple process. There seems to be something in us that wants both the bread that endures and the bread that perishes. In all honesty I know there are times I would like to

grab a loaf of anger and go whack someone and there have been times when I have sat alone eating the bread of self-pity. And I also know this. That food has left me emptier than before I ate of it.

The world is full of bread and yet far too many live hungry, empty, and searching. That says something about our appetites and the bread we have eaten. It's a sure sign that the bread we have eaten cannot give real life. It is perishable bread that nourishes only a perishable life. It leaves us wanting only more of the same. Not all bread sustains and grows life. Not all bread is nutritious. If you want to know the nutritional value of the bread you have to look beyond the bread. Where did it come from? What are its ingredients? That's what Jesus is teaching in today's gospel. The people have shown up hungry. Just last week Jesus fed 5000 of them with five loaves and two fish. Today they show up and their first question is, "Rabbi, when did you come here?" They do not marvel at last week's miracle, give thanks for God's generosity, or even wonder who this rabbi is. It sounds to me like they are worried they might have missed the next meal, that Jesus started without them and they are too late. They saw no sign, no miracle, in last week's feeding. They saw nothing more than fish and bread. They either refused or were unable to see beyond the fish and bread. They are interested only in their own appetites and Jesus knows it.

"Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves," he says to them. The people are concerned for their bellies. Jesus is concerned for their lives. The people want to feed themselves with bread. Jesus wants to feed them with God. "Do not work for the food that perishes," he tells them, "But for the food that endures for eternal life. "The food that endures is Jesus himself. He is the bread that is broken and distributed for the life of the world. He is the bread that is broken and yet never divided. He is the bread that is eaten and yet never exhausted. He is the bread that consecrates those who believe in and eat him. When we believe in Jesus, eating, ingesting, and taking him into our lives, we live differently. We see ourselves and one another as persons created in the image and likeness of God rather than as obstacles or issues to be overcome. We trust the silence of prayer rather than the words of argument. We choose love and forgiveness rather than anger and retribution. We relate with intimacy and vulnerability rather than superficiality and defensiveness. We listen for God's voice rather than our own. Ultimately, we seek life rather than death.

"I am the bread of life," Jesus tells the people. "Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." He is offering the people himself. He is the imperishable bread that nourishes and sustains imperishable life. Jesus makes us the same offer. He offers himself to us in every one of our relationships: family, friends, strangers, enemies, those who agree with us, and those who disagree. In every situation and each day of our life we choose the bread we will eat, perishable or imperishable. In so doing we also choose the life we want. **Amen.**

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 13

	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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 14

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

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Dana Kenn
Coffee	Nolans	Jess Berbeck

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





