

Church of the Divine Love

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 26

OCTOBER 30, 2002 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer before Worship – on insert

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 1:10-18**

Psalm 32:1-8

Second Lesson: **2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Luke 19:1-10**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

Prayer for Storms and Hurricanes – on insert

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer C page 369

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 362

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 #

**Sermon Sunday October 30, 2022**

Habakkuk 1: 1-4; 2:1-4; Psalm 119:137-144; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4,11-12; Luke 19:1-10.

**Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

Zacchaeus was a wee little man, and a wee little man was he.

Some of you may remember that song from your childhood Sunday School. Maybe you even sang it. I'll spare you my singing of the rest of that song but what I can't spare you is the fact that at some point we are all Zacchaeus, wee little men, and women. Regardless of how tall we are, at some point in our lives we've known what it's like to be "short in stature." We've all been Zacchaeus. Maybe that's the reality for some of you here today. Maybe you are short in stature. To be short in stature is not about one's physical height. It's a spiritual condition that affects people of all ages, shapes, and sizes. It's part of the human condition and it's one of the threads that runs through this morning's readings.

In today's Old Testament reading (Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4) Habakkuk must have been feeling short in stature when he cried out "O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, but you will not listen? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save?" (Habakkuk 1:2) He surely must've felt short in stature as he witnessed destruction and violence, justice that never prevails, and judgments that are perverted. (Habakkuk 1:3-4) Habakkuk's world doesn't seem all that distant or different from our own. Look at our world today and chances are you too will feel short in stature. Recall the times you've cried out to God but felt unheard and you'll remember what it's like to be short in stature. Today we hear the Psalmist declare, "I am small and of little account" (Psalm 119:141). Have you ever felt like that? Ever felt as if you were "small and of little account?" That's another aspect of what it's like to be short in stature.

And in today's gospel (Luke 19:1-10) Zacchaeus is described as a chief tax collector and he is rich. As such he was an outcast to his own people. He had no standing in society. He was in cahoots with the Roman occupiers. He preyed on his own people. He was looked down upon and despised by all. Has life ever cut you down to size? Have you ever felt small and insignificant, ignored and of little importance? Have you ever felt as if you just don't measure up, that you're not enough? Do you sometimes feel as if you're always on the outside, never an insider? Does it seem as if you can't outgrow your past or the opinions of others? Are you constantly trying to prove yourself, not just to others but to yourself, or even to God? Does it seem as if your life is not growing, maturing, or deepening, and that your growth has become stunted? Do you ever wonder if Jesus even notices you, knows who you are, knows your name? Have you ever felt powerless and overwhelmed by the circumstances of your life? Does it sometimes seem as if your value, worth, and dignity have been defined by your past actions and choices, what you have done and left undone? Have you ever experienced being lost and anonymous in the crowds of life? Have you ever felt as if you just weren't up to what life was asking of you?

If you answered yes to any one of those or a thousand other things like them then you probably know what it's like to be short in stature. You know what it's like to be Zacchaeus. I too know what that's like. Every time I feel short in stature I just want to run away and escape my life. I want to jump out of my life and into another life. But I can't. It's my life and it's the only life I have. If Jesus is going to do anything new with me, it has to start with my life as it is. To run away from, ignore, or try to escape my life as it is denying Jesus anything to work with. The antidote to being short in stature is facing our life, not running from it. That's what Zacchaeus does in today's gospel.

He refuses to be lost in the crowd. He refuses to hide. He refuses to run away from who he is. Instead, he runs ahead of the crowd and climbs a tree. Everyone could see what he was doing. St. Luke says he did that so he could see Jesus. But here's what I wonder. What if he climbed that tree because he wanted to be seen by Jesus? What if that was how he faced the truth and reality of his own life? What if he wasn't just climbing a tree but was climbing the cross of being short in stature? What if Zacchaeus was offering all that he was and all that he had to Jesus? What if that was him crying out, "Here I am. This is my life. Look at me, claim and recognize me too as a Son of Abraham?" "And that's exactly what Jesus did. He stopped and "looked up" at Zacchaeus. I can't help but wonder if that might not have been the first time anyone had ever looked up to Zacchaeus. Jesus looked up to him with love and acceptance. Jesus looked up and invited himself into Zacchaeus' home, into his life. He saw more than a

chief tax collector, a rich man, and a man short in stature. He saw what Zacchaeus couldn't see for himself. He saw one of his own.

In the eyes of the crowd Zacchaeus is a sinner. In his own eyes he is a wee little man, short in stature. But in the eyes of Jesus Zacchaeus is a Son of Abraham. Zacchaeus was sought, seen, and saved. The lost one had been found. That's what I want when I am short in stature. Don't you? Sure, I want to see Jesus but more than that I want to be seen by Jesus, even when I don't like or can't accept what I see in myself. I want to know that Jesus sees more in me than I can see in myself. I want to be recognized and called by name by the God who created me. I want to be reminded that I am more than what I have become. I want to know that despite what has become of my life I too am a child of Abraham. I want Jesus to call me out my tree, off the cross of being short in stature, and into a new life. I think that's what you want as well. It's what Zacchaeus wanted. Well let me tell you, this is our day because that's the promise today's gospel holds for each one of us.

Whatever it is that has made you short in stature and run you up the tree, that's the place where Jesus stops, looks up with love and acceptance, and calls you back down into a new life. Let's not turn away from that place. Let's not turn away from the face of Christ. It's so easy to hear the name Zacchaeus and think only of the wee little man and to see the ways we've become short in stature but that's only part of the truth. Do you know what the name Zacchaeus means? It means "pure," "clean," or "innocent." That's the greater truth. That's what Jesus saw in Zacchaeus. It's what he sees in you and me, even when we don't see it in ourselves or each other. He looks up and calls us back to our truest selves.

"Zacchaeus," Jesus says to us, "you come down here right now. That's not who you are. That's not your place. You come down. Dear friend, no matter how tall or how short you are, no matter how rich or how poor, whether you're up in a tree or out on a limb, if you know you'd be lost without him, then Jesus is looking for you today. "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost. **"Amen!"**

21 PENTECOST	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOW	

MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING
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WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
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THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING

SATURDAY                      10AM-2PM      THRIFT SHOP

**SET CLOCKS BACK**

22 PENTECOST/ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY

10:15 AM      HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II      (also on zoom)

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

**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:

Grace Schinella	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
John Mulligan	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Gabriel
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Elodie	Sophia	Carol K.
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Maggie & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim

Nathan Treadwell

Bob Lazevnick

Art

Margaret

Victims of Hurricanes

Richard & Family

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

This Week

Next Week

Eucharistic Minister

Deb Giordano

Roe Prosser

Coffee Hour

Nolans

Prossers

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

Storms and Hurricanes

O God, you rule over all creation, which you have set free to act according to its nature. We know and love your world, which is also a world of randomness and chance. You are Lord of chaos as well as order. We pray to you for people caught in storms and hurricanes. We remember particularly those whose work is dangerous, police and firefighters, rescue workers of all kinds. You are known in storm and in

calm, you are Lord of thunders, you moved across the hills of Judea. You are also a presence in stillness, a voice from silence. You spoke to Job in the whirlwind and quieted the Sea of Galilee. Wherever we are, in storm or calm, we know your presence. Call us sometimes to storm, sometimes to calm, sometimes to wilderness, sometimes to silence. Call us always to yourself, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

#### 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





