

**Church of the Divine Love**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2022**  
**10:15 AM**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

*Please observe silence after the candles are lit*

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#493 – O for a thousand tongues to sing**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Jeremiah 17:5-10**

Psalm 1

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

Gradual Hymn **#423 – Immortal, invisible , God only wise**

Gospel: **Luke 6:17-26**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, FormIV page 388

Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#376 – Joyful, joyful, we adore thee**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
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 – #544, vs. 1,2,5 – Jesus shall reign	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #335 – I am the bread of life	

### **Sermon Sunday February 13, 2022**

Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20; Luke 6: 17-26.

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

Blessed are the poor, the hungry, and the ones who are weeping. But woe to the rich, the full, and the ones who are laughing.

Poverty over riches, hunger over fullness, and weeping over laughing. Are those the priorities you have in your life today? Is that what you want for yourself? Your spouse and children? Your grandchildren? Is that the kind of life you are living today?

Let me just start by saying I don't like those priorities. That's not what I grew up believing. That's not what I aspired to. That's not how I want to live my life. And I am pretty sure that's not the dream my parents had for me. It's sure not the dream I have for my children. And I want more than that for them.

Jesus has a way of messing with our expectations of what really matters, our beliefs about how we should live, and our aspirations for the direction of our life. More often than not he reverses the usual expectations, beliefs, and aspirations. His view of what life, meaning, power, and success look like, what we might call the Kingdom of God is mostly at odds with the world's view and sometimes our own. And if today's gospel is a hard message to hear, it's an even harder life to live. It asks us some hard questions. It asks us to look at our life in light of Jesus' blessings and woes. What do the reversals in today's gospel bring up for you? In what ways do they challenge or contradict. Where you find meaning; Your aspirations and how they are shaping your life; and how, not what, but how you want to be in the world and in relationship to others?

It would be easy to hear the blessings and woes in today's gospel as rewards and punishments or a categorization of saints and sinners, but that would be a mistake and a misunderstanding of the gospel.

There is nothing inherently virtuous or holy about poverty, hunger, or grief. God knows the world doesn't need more pain or misery. And there is nothing inherently sinful or wrong about being rich, full, or laughing. I don't think Jesus is talking about what or how much we have or don't have. It's not about a bottom-line calculation of our bank balance, the number of meals or calories we get each day, or whether we spend more time crying than laughing. Jesus is talking about a quality not a quantity.

The what of our life can too easily determine or corrupt the how of our life. Maybe the blessings and woes are descriptive of two different how's of life. One in which our hearts, hopes, and aspirations are turned toward the coming of something new, something different. We are open to the future, to one another, to the possibility of what seems impossible. And where there is a future there is life, and more life. The other way of being in the world, the other how, is closed to the future, to each other, to something new or different. We are self-enclosed and self-sufficient. We are bound to the world as it is. It has become our treasure.

You see the kingdom is not a what. It is a how. It is not a place or a time or a thing, but a way of being in this world. You and I give existence to the kingdom by the how of our being in the world. The kingdom is God's dream, hope, desire, and longing for the world. It is God's call to us. And it is up to us to respond and make it present. And sometimes we do. When Jesus blesses the poor and hungry, the sorrowful and the ridiculed, he isn't saying that we should all aspire to poverty, hunger, sorrow, or being verbally abused. He is saying that God is present with us, even when the world has abandoned us, that God loves us, even when everyone else hates us. We find blessing in seeking God, being hungry for God, and loving the people God loves. When Jesus announces woe to those who are rich, eat well, and enjoy fame and admiration from people, he isn't saying that wealth, good food, and popularity are bad things. He is saying that when we are focused on satisfying our own appetites, we have turned our attention away from God, and our self-centeredness will be our spiritual doom.

When we seek God, we feel the pain and sorrow God feels for people who are hurting. We stand up to injustice. We affirm that every human being is worthy of love in God's sight. When we are hungry for God, we want the things God wants. God wants every person on earth to know him and love him. Jesus isn't commanding you to work at becoming poor so you can receive blessing. Jesus is stating how things are and how things will be in the Kingdom of God. The things we value in this world have no value in God's economy. In God's economy, the only thing that has value is grace. God's economy levels the playing field for everyone and quite often, that is not comfortable for us. Because, whether or not we want to admit it, we often prefer the way the world elevates some and values others less. I mean, when we are on top looking down, the view is pretty sweet. The vistas are clear. Nothing stands in the way of what we want to see. Still, we have to realize that the top of a mountain can be a lonely place.

The kingdom comes locally, temporarily, intermittently, episodically in our particular circumstances through us how of being in the world. It mostly happens on the margins of power, at the edges, and rarely at the center. It is the reversal of all reversals. The kingdom comes, is actually here, is really real, whenever we love our enemies, do good to those who hate us, pray for those who abuse us, turn the other cheek to those who strike us, welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, forgive our offender, give to the beggar. Every time we do to others as we would have them do to us, we give existence to the kingdom.

Have you ever thought of yourself as having the privilege and responsibility of giving existence to the kingdom? Have you ever thought that God might need you as much as you need God? Have you ever

thought of yourself as a saint, as one whose how of life matters and makes a difference to others and to the world? What if we were to step into the how of sainthood in our particular time and place, in the unique circumstances of our life, in our daily relationships? What would that look like in your life today? In what ways might it change or reshape the how of your life? Let us consider not just the relevance of these words. But let us truly let them resonate in our lives. May we all consider the mystery of the divine around us, within us, and outside us as we seek to attune ourselves to the unfolding of the Kingdom of God. **Amen.**

Masks are required during the service.

SUNDAY – 6 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
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	
SUNDAY – 7 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

## 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	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Celeste	Arlene Goodenough	Dorothy
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Julia
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Tim
Theresa K.	Amy E.	Jason
Nathan Treadwell	Christopher & Family	
Victims of Natural Disasters		

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

### 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 forever. Amen.

