

Church of the Divine Love
TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 15

AUGUST 15, 2021

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence after the candles are lit

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #488 – **Be thou my vision**

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: **Proverbs 9:1-6**

Psalm 34:9-14

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 5:15-20**

Gradual Hymn #527 – **Singing songs of expectation**

Gospel: **John 6:51-58**

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 #665 – **All my hope on God is founded**

Doxology (sung)

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|---|----------|
| 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, Anthem & Prayer | page 337 |
| The Communion of the People | |
| Communion Hymn – Here I Am Lord (see insert) | |
| Post Communion Prayer | page 365 |
| Prayer of St. Francis | page 833 |
| Dismissal Hymn #446 – Praise to the Holiest | |
| Dismissal | |

Sermon Sunday August 15, 2021

Proverbs 9: 1-6; Psalm 34: 9-14; Ephesians 5: 15-20; John 6: 51-58

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Jesus is the living bread.

Jesus actually talked a lot about bread; he taught us to pray for our daily bread, he said he was the bread of life and, on the night before he died, he took bread and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' And all these references to bread and life and Jesus and the eucharist are all undoubtedly linked. The daily bread for which we pray in the Lord's Prayer is in fact the body of Christ received in the Eucharist. So, praying for our daily bread is not just about praying for all that we need physically but it's about praying for the grace we need to get by, for spiritual sustenance, for healing, for comfort and for strength. Jesus is talking about the bread that doesn't run out – the lasting, never ceasing, never ending, perpetual bread. One of the deepest and most crippling fears of the human spirit is the fear of not having enough to make life possible. I am convinced that at the heart of the Lord's prayer, Jesus teaches his disciples a prayer that means 'Deliver us, O Lord, from the fear of not having enough to eat. Give us bread for today and with it give us confidence that tomorrow we will have enough.'

So, Jesus is our living bread. He gives us the grace we need to get by, he sustains us spiritually, he heals us, comforts us, and strengthens us. And he says that those who eat his flesh and drink his blood abide in him, and he in them. Abiding is about committing to stay in a place or with someone. It has to do with solidarity, presence, and perseverance. It is a very powerful word – but not one that we use very often. Today Jesus says, "Eat me. Drink me." This is the only way we ever have life within us. Jesus is very clear and blunt about it. His flesh is true food, and his blood is true drink. Any other diet leaves us empty and hollow, hungry, and bereft of life. "Very truly, I tell you unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and

drink his blood you have no life in you." Those are ominous words, words that haunt and challenge us to consider whether there is life within us. Jesus is talking about more than just physical or biological life. He's talking about that life that is beyond words, indescribable, and yet we know it when we taste it. We get a taste of it when we love so deeply and profoundly that everything about us dies, passes away, and somehow, we are more fully alive than ever before. Sometimes everything seems to fit together perfectly, and all is right with the world; not because we got our way but because we knew our self to be a part of something larger, more beautiful, and more holy than anything we could have done. We were tasting life. There are moments when time stands still, and we wish the moment would never end. In that moment we are in the flow, the wonder, and the unity of life, and it tastes good.

Most of us spend a fair amount of time, energy, and prayer trying to create and possess the life we want. In spite of our best efforts sometimes we live less than fully alive. Sometimes the outside and inside of who we are don't match up. We ask ourselves, what am I doing with my life? We wonder if this is all there will ever be. Is this as good as it gets? We lament at what has become of us and our life. Nothing seems to satisfy. We despair at what is and what we think will be. Despite family and friends, we find no place in which we really belong. Those questions and feelings are not so much a judgement on us, but a diagnosis of us. They are symptoms that there is no life in us. We are dying from the inside out. There is, however, treatment for our condition and food for our hunger. Life in Christ, not death in the wilderness, is our destiny. The flesh and blood of Christ are the medicine that saves; what St. Ignatius called "the medicine of immortality." One dose, however, is not enough. We need a steady diet of this sacred medicine, this holy food.

Jesus is our medicine and our health. He is our life and the means to the life for which we most deeply hunger. We don't work for the life we want. We eat the life we want. Wherever human hunger and the flesh and blood of Christ meet, there is life. Jesus is speaking to a large crowd that sought him out; that came into the wilderness to find him; that made a pilgrimage to see him instead of going to the city of Jerusalem for the Passover; that were fed by him from only five fish and two loaves of bread; that have wanted to take him by force and make him their king. In other words, Jesus is speaking to a crowd that have felt the pangs of some deep longing within themselves and glimpsed the possibilities of some true satisfaction in Jesus. But as so often happens, they have mis-placed their longing. They have placed their longing on "king." Jesus wants them to see that their true longing is for bread, LIVING bread.

The crowd has looked at Jesus through the distorted lens of their longing and seen "king." Jesus is asking us to reverse our gaze. To look through the lens of himself at our longing. And, to help bring our longing into clearer focus, he offers a second lens: LIVING bread. When we look at our longing through the lens of Jesus and the lens of LIVING bread, what do we see? John wants us to SEE into Jesus, and through Jesus, that our real longing is not for kings, not for things that pass away. Our true longing is for things that endure, that are imperishable: Light, truth, life, love, loyalty, kinship, abiding in God, hearing, and responding to God's voice and God's call.

The bread of this life - even the miraculous manna of the wilderness - makes possible only life that is perishable. Yes, it feeds us for today, but one day, we will all die no matter how much of the bread of this life we have. When Jesus invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood, he is inviting us to ingest God's Word, to feast on God's light, God's life, God's truth, God's love. To let them ABIDE in us, so that we might ABIDE in Jesus and in the One who ABIDES in Jesus. When Jesus invites us to eat his flesh and

drink his blood, he invites us to be healed of our ancient wound and to live once again in ways that truly satisfy our deepest longing, our longing to live in ways that truly reflect our love affair with God.

In the eating and drinking of Christ's flesh and blood he lives in us, and we live in him. We consume his life that he might consume and change ours. We eat and digest his life, his love, his mercy, his forgiveness, his way of being and seeing, his compassion, his presence, and his relationship with the father. We eat and drink our way to life. So, leave nothing behind. Push nothing to the side. Clean your plate! **Amen.**

12 PENTECOST

9:00 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

13 PENTECOST

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

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

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:

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| Girard Bishop | People of Haiti | Dorothy |
| Nathan Treadwell | John Loubengeiger | Chris Dickson |
| Michael Echevarria | Francisco Febres | Del |
| Martinisi Family | Michael & Family | John Rocco |
| Charlotte H. | Bernie Walther | James |
| Julia | Mo (Rachael) | Warren |
| Bill Conklin Sr. | Anthony Paribello | Kate Jones |
| Barbara Curran | Edward Lent & family | Laura |
| Frances & Donna Mongelli | Christopher & his family | Aidan |
| Elodie | Taylor | Ciara |
| Gabriel | Victims of Wild Fires | |

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.

