

Church of the Divine Love

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 26

NOVEMBER 10, 2024 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation

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Collect for Purity

page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

Psalm 119:1-8

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 9:11-14**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Mark 12:28-34**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

The Nicene Creed

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Prayers of the People, Form VI

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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 For the Parish	page 817
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday November 10, 2024**

1 Kings 17: 8-16; Psalm 146; Hebrews 9: 24-28; Mark 12: 38-44.

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

**In Mark 12:38-44**, we encounter a striking scene in the temple that reveals profound truths about generosity, sacrifice, and the nature of true faith. As Jesus observes the behavior of the scribes and the widow, He teaches us vital lessons about what it means to give and to live faithfully.

The poor widow is an example of generosity. You should be generous like her. I suspect most of us have heard that one or something similar more than once. Sometimes I think that we are so familiar with this story that we no longer hear or even look for another meaning. So, we expect and settle for the usual interpretations. We are not surprised when this text is used for the annual stewardship campaign. Or we anticipate its use to criticize the rich for not giving more. And it holds before us the fact that there is an unequal and often unfair distribution of the world's resources reminding us that the majority of the world lives without enough – without enough money, food, shelter, education, healthcare.

All of that is valid. There is truth in those interpretations. But there is also something else going on in this story. This gospel is not simply about the treasury of money. It is, rather, about the treasury of poverty. We must remember that God looks beyond our actions and sees our hearts. He calls us to authenticity in our faith, urging us to avoid the trap of seeking human accolades. As Jesus sits opposite the treasury, He observes people putting money into the offering box. The rich contribute large amounts, but it is the

poor widow who captures His attention. She gives two small coins, worth very little in monetary terms, yet Jesus declares that she has given more than all the others. The widow's offering, despite its modest value, reflects a profound sacrifice. She gave all she had to live on. In contrast, the wealthy gave out of their abundance, but their gifts did not cost them anything significant. This widow's act is an expression of trust in God's provision. Her generosity demonstrates a heart fully surrendered to Him. She believed that God would take care of her needs, even when she had little to offer. Our giving should flow from a spirit of worship and gratitude, recognizing all that God has done for us. Let our gifts be acts of love and devotion.

The riches of poverty. Most of us, I suspect, have not seen or experienced the riches of poverty very often. Instead, we tend to view poverty as a problem to be fixed and not as a source of power and glory. Poverty is often a problem to be eliminated and solved but not in today's gospel. The poverty of the poor widow is not a problem to be fixed but rather a virtue to be interiorized. The poor widow becomes our teacher and we, her students. When you have a heart for God you will give to God. Our giving is part of many actions expected of those who believe in and worship God. Outside of salvation, giving is one of the most important decisions you will make in your relationship with God. Our giving is to God, and when it leaves our hands into His hands then there's freedom from money being our master and our faith grows, seeing Jesus multiply the gift to produce faith in others. Can you envision there will be people in heaven because of your giving to support ministries, outreach, and missions?

The passage then shifts to a scene where Jesus observes people putting money into the temple treasury. Many wealthy individuals contribute large sums, but it is the poor widow who puts in two small coins, worth very little. Jesus points out that her offering, though small in monetary value, is far greater than the large contributions of the rich because she gave all she had out of her poverty. This passage encourages readers to reflect on their own motivations for giving and serving within their communities, emphasizing integrity and sincerity over public recognition or material value. In essence, **Mark 12:38-44** challenges believers to examine their hearts, prioritize humility, and recognize the significance of sacrificial giving, regardless of the size of the gift. The message emphasizes that true worth in giving is not determined by the amount but by the heart and sacrifice behind it. The widow's offering demonstrates absolute trust and reliance on God, serving as an example of genuine devotion.

The widow embodies the virtue of spiritual poverty. She has no need for the money of the rich, the long robes of the scribes, or marketplace respect. She has no need for the best seat in the house or even the appearance of holiness. The absence of the widow's needs to have becomes her need not to have. So, she does what makes no sense. She gives her last two coins. "She out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on." For what else does a poor widow have to give? She has no abundance, only the riches of poverty. The contrast between the wealthy contributors and the widow illustrates the importance of humility and sacrifice in one's relationship with God. It encourages individuals to give selflessly and serve others, regardless of their financial status, by showing that God values the heart and intent behind the gift. This Gospel invites believers to reflect on their own lives and practices. It encourages self-examination regarding motives in both giving and in their walk of faith,

prompting questions about authenticity, commitment, and reliance on God. Ultimately, the purpose of **Mark 12:38-44** is to teach profound lessons about integrity, the nature of true worship, and the values that are esteemed in God's economy—where faith and heart supersede material wealth and outward appearances.

The riches of poverty come not from acquiring but from letting go. All authentic spirituality is about letting go: letting go of comparison, competition, expectation, judgment; letting go of status, reputation, and appearances; letting go of the need for power, to control, to succeed, to win, to be right; letting go of our need for approval and perfectionism; letting go of all the illusions we create or buy in order to make ourselves feel better. Ultimately it means letting go of ourselves and the ones we love most. Our giving to God is like priming the pump of God's blessings in the life of a believer. We have a choice to take the little and consume it for ourselves. Or, we can use allow God's provision to be poured out and prime something that offers an abundant well of blessing. Our choice is defined by our faith in the depth of the well.

Spiritual poverty begins with letting go and it always reveals the fragility of life. It takes us to the border between life and death where there are no guarantees – only hope, where there are no answers – only faith, and where there is no security – only love. This is where the poor widow lives. This is where God lives. And they live in union as one. In the face of the poor widow – the face of spiritual poverty – the Christ sees and recognizes himself. Jesus doesn't tithe His life but surrenders it all fully to God. He gave the fullness of His life. And we are like the religious temple of the day – outwardly professional but inwardly empty and dying. Yet, as the widow extended the fullness of grace, so does God to us. God's giving is unlike ours in that He is perfectly and abundantly generous with mercy and grace. Let us step out in faith and give authentically, just like the widow, trusting that every act of kindness and generosity counts in the Kingdom of God. **Amen.**

**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – Boxes are at the back of the church. Last day to return is Sunday, November 24<sup>th</sup>.**

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 26

	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 27

10:15 AM                      HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

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

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:

Sister Eddie	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Lynette
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Christopher	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Danielle	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Donna A.	Kate Jones	Aidan

Sally & Roger	Sophia	Ciara
Mary & Family	Ann Turco	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Joseph	Wendy

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 forever. Amen













