

**Church of the Divine Love**  
**THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**PROPER 18**  
**SEPTEMBER 4, 2022**  
**9:00 A.M.**  
**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #10 – **New every morning**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

Psalm 1

Second Lesson: **Philemon 1-21**

Gradual Hymn –#675 – **Take up your cross**

Gospel: **Luke 14:25-33**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, FormIV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #372, vs. 1,3,4 – **Praise to the living God!**

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 – <b>#484 – Praise the Lord through every nation</b>	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn – <b>#423 – Immortal, invisible, God only wise</b>	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday September 4th, 2022**

Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1:1-21; Luke 14: 25-33

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

So, who wants to be a disciple of Jesus? He certainly doesn't pull any punches about what it takes. First, "Hate your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself." Second, "Carry the cross and follow him." Lastly, "Give up all your possessions."

It's that simple and it's that difficult. Jesus' words don't just sound black and white. They are black and white. It is all or nothing. We are either in or we are out. His words are likely not the first thing that comes to mind when we consider our faithfulness or what the Christian life looks like. We don't often talk about the demands and sacrifices required by the Christian path. Too often we turn Christianity into a set of beliefs divorced from a way of being and acting. I'm not talking about salvation, the future, heaven, or hell. This is about who we are and how we live right now, here, today. So, what do we do with today's gospel, this so called "good news?" I suspect the first temptation is to soften the text, to explain it away, to reinterpret it to fit our lives. That temptation, however, is just another symptom of the consumerism that infects much of our society, church, and faith.

Too often church and faith are treated like a big buffet. We take as much of what we like and want but leave behind what we do not like, what's too hard to swallow, what we disagree with, or what does not fit our personal opinions and beliefs. That's not how the gospels portray Jesus or the life of discipleship.

To the degree we have done that we have deceived ourselves and each other. Sometimes we need to have demands and expectations placed upon us. Good parents know this. "You need to eat it because it's good for you." "You need to do this or that because it's the right thing to do." "I expect you to study hard and do your homework, make good friends, do your chores." They demand and expect out of love so that their child might grow and thrive. That's what Jesus is doing in today's gospel. His demands and expectations call us to be different, to be fully alive, to be like him. It is the same choice Moses set before the Israelites, the choice between life and prosperity, and death and adversity (Deuteronomy 30:15-20). It is a choice we make multiple times a day, every day of our lives. That's the choice with which Jesus confronts the crowds in today's gospel.

The crowds have been gathering around Jesus since early in his ministry. Jesus was the new buffet for them. He offered healing, exorcisms, teaching, hope, life, good news, bread, freedom, and a new vision. He had what they wanted, and they gathered around, surrounded, and pressed in on him. It was as if they could not get enough. The crowds grew in numbers, increasing by the thousands. Something changes, however, with today's gospel. They are no longer just gathering when Jesus is around; they are now traveling with him. There is more to discipleship, however, than simply traveling with Jesus. Discipleship is more than grazing at the buffet of divine life. That life cannot be bought but it will cost us everything we have. Hate your family and your own life. Carry the cross. Give up your possessions. Those three things, the cost of discipleship, shaped Jesus' own life and ministry. They are to shape ours as well. Jesus is not asking us to do anything he did not do. To the contrary he makes it possible for us to do what he did. So how did Jesus hate his parents? Remember the twelve-year-old Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem? Mary and Joseph are frantic looking for him. They think he is lost. When they find him, Mary asks, "'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house'" (Luke 3:41-50)? In that moment Jesus hates Mary and Joseph. He set his relationship with them below his relationship with God the Father. This is not the emotional, feeling based way we tend to think of hate today. For Jesus, hating another is about reordering relationships and loyalty. Jesus is not rejecting Mary and Joseph or their love and presence in his life. This is not about rejection but establishing new priorities. For the disciple no one and no relationship can take precedence over the relationship with Jesus; not father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, or life itself. In that sense Jesus hated his own life. He carried his cross and gave precedence to his Father's will and our salvation. Again, it is about priorities. He set aside his will and preferences in favor of love for and obedience to God.

What about Jesus' possessions? The birds and animals of this world have more possessions than Jesus. "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head," Jesus says (Luke 9:58). Again, Jesus is giving primacy to his relationship with God not his relationship with things. It's a question of priorities. Jesus is asking us to do and be what he did and who he was. That's what a disciple is. A disciple is a learner, one who learns to live, act, speak, and think like the teacher. The disciple integrates the teacher's life and teachings into his or her own life. No one, no cost, no thing is to take precedence over or interfere with our relationship with Jesus. Nothing is more important because it is our relationship with Jesus that shapes, defines, determines, and characterizes all our other relationships, all other aspects of our lives, who we are, what we say, and what we do.

Discipleship, learning to be and live like Jesus, is ultimately what unifies our life. So often we live fragmented and compartmentalized lives. We have a work life, school life, family and home life, internet

life, recreational life, political and civic life, church life. This fragmentation allows us to place each of those different aspects of our life as the priority depending on where we are, who we are with, and what we are doing. That fragmentation is one more symptom of a consumer oriented, buffet driven world. Jesus' demands and expectations change all that. There can be only one priority and it is to inform and shape the whole of who we are and what we do. Think about some of the implications. It means we are to be the same person with the same values, principles, and beliefs regardless of where we are, who we are with, or what we are doing. It means politics is no longer governed by party agendas or loyalty but by commitment to Jesus and gospel agendas. It means personal opinions and preferences give way to love of neighbor and one's enemies. Imagine how that one thing would change some of the postings and comments on Facebook and other social, and our private as well as public conversations. It means business is not a capitalist venture to gain money, power, or leverage over another but a resource to care for, support, and satisfy human needs.

True disciples do what Jesus did, and care about the things Jesus cares about. Are you willing to commit to a life of following Jesus? Can you leave behind the things that matter most to you, and make the things that matter most to God your highest priority? The cost is great, but the cost of non-discipleship is even greater. The choice is yours. What's it worth to you, to follow Jesus? Let's not leave here the same person we were when we came in. What is one thing, just one thing, large or small, that you could do or give up that changes your priorities, that reorders your relationships, that gives precedence to Christ? Choose that and you leave here today a different person. Choose life. Choose life. Choose life.

**Amen!**

### Masks optional with social distance seating

13 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
<b>LAST WEEK OF 9:00 AM</b>			
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	

14 PENTECOST

**10:15 AM**

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

(also on zoom)

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Jess Berbeck
Altar Guild	Roe Prosser	Deb Giordano
	Marie Quatorze	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	----	Jess Berbeck

### **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	Robert Sweat
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor

Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Sophia	Del
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Maggie & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim
Nathan Treadwell	Bob Lazevnick	Art
Carol K.	Carolyn	

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 for ever. Amen

