

Church of the Divine Love
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 14, 2021
10:15 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#615 – Thy kingdom come!**

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: **Daniel 12:1-3**

Psalm 16

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25**

Gradual Hymn **#48 – O day of radiant gladness**

Gospel: **Mark 13:1-8**

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 **#686 – Come, thou fount of every blessing**

Doxology (sung)

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 – #51 – We the Lord's people	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on back of bulletin	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #711 – Seek ye first (2 nd verse on facing page)	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday November 14, 2021.

Daniel 12: 1-3; Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14; Mark 13: 1-8

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Did you ever feel that way, that everything nailed down was coming loose? Did you ever feel that a seismic event had shaken your world beyond recognition? The Bible provides hope for us in just such times like that, for the Bible often speaks to people facing cataclysmic events.

One day the great buildings and structures of our life will fall. The very things that we often trust and rely upon to give identity, meaning, purpose, and security will crumble. This is not a prediction of the future or a forecast of doom and gloom. It is just a statement of reality. Life changes, loved ones die, institutions fail, people disappoint, relationships break up, bodies get sick. In those moments the great stones of our temples are all thrown down.

Each of us is a temple builder. We build all sorts of temples: personas, families, beliefs and opinions, institutions, roles, reputations, accomplishments, dreams, and hopes. We build temples with the idea that they will contain and support our lives. The problem is not in building temples but in expecting them to do and be more than they can. Too often we confuse the structure for the content, the place of divinity for the Divine. Stone upon stone we build our temples with the expectations, sometimes spoken and sometimes unconscious, that these great structures will provide ultimate meaning, impenetrable security, permanent order, and unchanging direction for our life and world.

The temple in today's gospel is more than just a building in Jerusalem, more than a place of worship. It was the center and anchor of Jewish life. It provided identity, structure, and meaning just like our temples of today. The disciples are impressed. "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" They are, however, looking only on outward appearances.

Jesus is not as impressed. This is his third and last visit to the temple. The first time, he went into the temple, "looked around at everything" (Mk. 11:11) and left. The second time he went in the temple he drove out the buyers and sellers, overturned the moneychangers' tables, and left (Mk. 11:15-19). On his

third visit Jesus was in conflict with the temple leaders (Mk. 11:27-12:40). He sat in opposition to the temple treasury while a poor widow “put in everything she had, all she had to live on” (Mk. 11:41-44). He leaves the temple for the last time and asks his disciples, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down” (Mk. 13:2). It’s not a threat or a forecast, just a statement of truth. One day it will happen.

Regardless of how or when it comes about, the day our temple falls is the day our life and our world have forever been changed. It feels like the end of the world and as if all is lost. In that day earthquakes shake the foundations on which we stand. There is no stability. Famine leaves us empty and denies us any sense of satisfaction. Wars divide and fragment the unity of our life and relationships. Other voices tempt us with easy answers and shallow explanations. This is not so much about the end of the world as it is about the end of the many worlds, temples, and great buildings we have created for ourselves. When the great buildings begin to shake the temptation is to shore up the foundation, add some mortar, make it stronger, put it all back together. That’s not what Jesus says to do. Our spiritual work in those days is to not be alarmed or afraid, to be faithful and not be led astray, to be watchful, present, and attentive. It is a time for patient waiting.

The day our temple falls is much more about revelation than destruction. With every true revelation there is always a falling away. It is the falling away of illusion. Fallen temples hold before us a truth and reality about our self, life, or world that we have denied, ignored, forgotten, or simply refused to see. It is always a painful process to see our great buildings fall and be confronted by the reality and truth revealed in that fall. Fallen temples confront us, forcing us to decide between reality and illusion, between life and death. They ask us hard questions about where we put our trust. The day our great buildings fall is the day we begin to face our corruptibility and impermanence so that we might know the incorruptibility and permanence of God. We face our temporal nature so that we might discover God’s eternal nature. Barrenness and emptiness precede the joys of the birth pangs. Fallen temples are not about loss and destruction but about birth and creation. Our God is the God of life not death, the God of creation not destruction. Every moment of every day new life is being created and given us.

But we expect Christ more. Nothing shall separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Trouble is real. But Christ is more powerful than any trouble. Jesus wanted his disciples to know, his disciples then, and us, disciples today, that we can be alert, open, and watchful for all the signs of God at work in the world, and for what is not of God in the world. Expect trouble but expect Christ more. Expect that we are not alone in the face of any trouble. When dreams fail and disasters come and we find ourselves against a wall or looking into darkness, we may be at the end of our rope, but God is not at the end of God’s. We are not alone. Christ is with us. We are promised the help of the Holy Spirit. And we are given one another, in the words of our reading from Hebrews, to “provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, “and now, don’t we have even more ways than ever to see one another’s faces, to hear one another, even when we can’t be in the same room together? and to encourage one another. Christ is present as we reach out to one another, when we reach out to serve any who are suffering, especially when we reach out in times of trouble. Expect trouble; expect Christ more. **Amen.**

25 PENTECOST

10:15 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, 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

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

11:15 AM VESTRY MEETING

LAST DAY TO RETURN SHOEBOXES FOR OPERATION

CHRISTMAS CHILD

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Seek ye first – extra verse between 1 & 2

Man shall not live by bread alone

But by every word that proceeds

From the mouth of God

Allelu alleluia

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.

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	Chrissy Neville	Dorothy
Nathan Treadwell	John Loubengeiger	Del
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Julia
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	John Scally
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren

Charlotte H.

Bernie Walther

Sylvia

Mo (Rachael)

Bill Conklin Sr.

Laura

Anthony Paribello

Barbara Curran

Taylor

Ciara

Elodie

Gabriel

Aidan

Christopher & Family

Victims of Natural Disasters

People of Haiti & Missionaries who were Kidnapped

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