

**Church of the Divine Love**

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 9**

**JULY 3, 2022**

**9:00 A.M.**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#657 – Love divine, all loves excelling**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 66:10-14**

Psalm 66:1-8

Second Lesson: **Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16**

Gradual Hymn – **#441 – In the cross of Christ I glory**

Gospel: **Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#483 – The head that once was crowned with thorns**

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>#321 – My God, thy table now is spread</b>	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn – <b>#720 – National Anthem, verse 1</b>	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday July 3, 2022**

Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-8; Galatians 6: (1-6), 7-16; Luke 10:1-11,16-20

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

Today's prayers of the people include prayers prepared in response to the mass shootings in the schools, in the churches, in the hospitals, war in Ukraine and there are others that don't make the headlines though they are no less important, no less painful, and no less tragic. Some are global, some are national, and some are personal. If these events have left us heartbroken and weeping imagine what God must be seeing and feeling; God, the Creator who entrusts us with his creation, with one another's lives, and with his own life. Today the Creator and the created once again stand together weeping and brokenhearted.

I no longer see these tragedies as problems to be fixed or behaviors to be corrected. That approach hasn't gotten us very far. Rather, I view them as symptoms pointing to a deeper issue. Until we are willing to deal with the deeper issue things aren't likely to change, and the deeper issue is the human heart. Whether by a terrorist attack, through prejudice and discrimination against a minority group, in our political campaigns, or in our personal relationships, the violence and mistreatment we perpetrate on each other arise first from an inner violence that poisons and fragments the human heart. We need a change of heart. We need a heart at peace. I can't help but ask, where is the peace of God today? I think that's a question many are asking. It's a question I suspect God might also be asking.

While we wrestle with this question let's not project our failings and human imperfections onto God, waiting for and expecting God to fill the void and fix the problems. This is not about God's failings or imperfections. It is ours and the blood of the victims, the tears of the mourners, and the pain of the

world are crying and begging for a different answer. Let's not give the same old answers. Let's not use the same old excuses. Let's not offer the same old solutions. Let's not meet the world with the same old beliefs.

The United States of America will be 246 years old on July 4. That's a long time for a nation to remain free. But when you look at our history in the context of world history America is just a CHILD among the nations. Egypt, China, Japan, Rome, Greece all make America's history seem so short. Consider what a brief time we've really been here as a nation: When Thomas Jefferson died, Abraham Lincoln was a young man of 17. When Lincoln was assassinated, Woodrow Wilson was a boy of 8. By the time Woodrow Wilson died Ronald Reagan was a boy of 12.

There you have it. The lives of four men can take you all the way back to the beginning of our country, 243 years ago. We are so young. And yet we stand tall among these nations because of the principles on which we were established: We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. Thus begins the Declaration of Independence, which we celebrate every year. And do not let anyone fool you. Freedom ought and need be celebrated. Today we celebrate our freedoms which God has blessed these great nations of ours. Now I cannot tell you whether God has blessed us with liberty and therefore we are free or we have wisely and simply built our liberty based on biblical principles and thus we are free. In any case our freedom is from God. Happy Independence Day!

Instead, let's number ourselves among the seventy sent to every town and place where Christ himself goes. Let's enter every house, first saying, "Peace to this house." Let's become people with hearts at peace, not at war. Isn't that what you want for yourself? For your children and grandchildren? For your family and friends? For the world? I do. That's what I want. I think we all do. But I think we also struggle with what peace means, what it looks like, and how we attain and keep it. If the events of today's world offer us anything it's the opportunity to rethink what peace means and reorient our hearts. So let me ask you this. What does peace mean to you? What comes to mind when you think of peace? What does it look like? What shape does it take?

The reality is that we don't have the power to change another. And when we do it is not peace, we achieve but more violence. There is a reason so many of us feel powerless in the midst of our world's tragedies. We are powerless. We have no control to change another. The only person over whom we have any power or ability to change is ourselves. You and I are each responsible for choosing whether we live with a heart at peace or a heart at war. Jesus did not send the seventy out to change the towns and places they would go but to simply offer his peace. How often does Jesus instruct us to go and change other people? He doesn't. That may be our way but it's not his way. Jesus does, however, spend a lot of time teaching us to change ourselves and our way of being toward another. That's the change of heart that is at the core of peace.

The struggle for peace begins not between me and another but within myself. So, let's consider what a heart at peace might look like. What if a heart at peace offers forgiveness not seven times but seventy times seven? Are we willing to do that? What if a heart at peace means feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and imprisoned? Before we can ever do that, we must first regard the life, needs, and desires of another as important as our own. All these "what ifs" about peace are not so much prescribing behaviors as they are describing ways of being. Peace does not

begin with our behaviors toward each other but with our way of being toward each other, our seeing each other as human beings created in the image and likeness of God.

Our behavior toward one another will be determined by our way of being toward one another. It is a matter of the heart, your heart, and my heart. If our hearts are at war, it makes no difference how polite or nice, we are to each other. Violence is present. When Jesus sent out the seventy, he did not condition their offers of peace on who the recipients might be, their worthiness, what they had done, or what their response might be. Neither can we condition our offers of peace. Some will receive the peace and others will not. Either way, "the kingdom of God has come near" if our hearts are at peace.

The peace of Christ is not defined by the absence of conflict, and it is not an ideal to be attained. It is a practice to be lived every moment of every day of our lives, a continual setting of our faces to go to Jerusalem. That means practicing peace with our friends and family. It means practicing peace with our enemies. It means peace with the stranger, with those who are different from us, and with those who scare us. Let's not forget that when Jesus sent the seventy, they went without a purse, bag, or sandals. Now don't literalize that. It's a metaphor for the baggage we carry, the baggage that continues to trip us up and deny us a heart at peace. It is the baggage of our past experiences, fears and wounds, grudges and resentments, pre-judgments and assumptions about others, old solutions and beliefs, our need to be right or better than the other, and sometimes our desire to play the victim. So let me ask you one last question. What baggage might you need to leave behind to go into the world fully equipped with a heart at peace? "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house. **Amen.**"

### Masks optional with social distance seating

4 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	
5 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Deb Giordano
Altar Guild	Roe Prosser	Deb Giordano
	Marie Quatorze	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:

Art	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
John Mulligan	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Dorothy

People of Haiti

Chrissy Neville

Vincent

Maggie & Family

People of Ukraine

Julia

Nathan Treadwell

Jen & Family

Tim

Bob Lazevnick

Christopher & Family

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