

Church of the Divine Love

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 15, 2023 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for the New Year – on insert

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 42:1-7**

Psalm 40:1-12

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 1:1-9**

Gradual Hymn#

Gospel: **John 1:29-42**

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 #

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer D page 372

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 373
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 of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday January 15, 2023

Isaiah 49:1-7; Psalm 40:1-12; 1 Corinthians 1:1-9; John 1:29-42.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

“He said to them, ‘Come and see. “Those are probably familiar words for most of us. I don’t just mean in the context of today’s gospel, the Second Sunday after Epiphany. Even if you’ve never read or heard today’s gospel you’ve probably both heard and spoken those words.

How many times have you heard your child or grandchild say, “Come and see?” “Come and see my drawing!” “Come and see this bug!” “Come and see what I made!” There was excitement and joy in their voice, maybe even a sense of urgency. Their words were an invitation to share in their discovery, to experience their world, and to participate in their life. It was the invitation to let your life and theirs come together as one. That’s why you can’t just sit back and say, “No, just tell me about it.” That’s not an acceptable answer. They know that information and relationship are not interchangeable. They are not the same thing. “No, I’m not going to tell you, “They will say. “You have to come and see.” In those moments there is only one thing to do; get up and go look.

If you haven’t heard a child, say, “Come and see,” maybe you remember saying it when you were a child. Something happened and you just couldn’t keep it to yourself. “Come and see,” you yelled. You wanted that other person to enter into and be a part of our life. It’s not just kids that say that. Adults say it too. We invite our spouse, a best friend, a trusted colleague to come and see our work and accomplishments, to come and see our pain and struggles, to come and see our life. Not only that but we also want to be invited to come and see theirs. At some level these are moments of epiphany, moments when God reveals his life in us and among us. It may be easier to see this in kids but it’s in us as well. It’s not a function of age but a function of being human. We never outgrow the desire to invite and to be invited, to share our life with another in a deep and meaningful way, and to participate in something larger than ourselves. That’s a part of our having been created in the image and likeness of

God. Jesus knows that about us and about God. That's why he doesn't answer the disciples' question when they ask, "Where are you staying?" He doesn't offer information, he invites relationship. "Come and see."

That invitation is the antidote to the ways in which we often live vicarious lives. Too often we allow political agendas, talk radio, surveys, and news to tell us what to think rather than to help us engage our world. We settle for church leaders telling us what to believe rather than pointing us to and opening the doors to the mystery of Jesus' presence in our lives. We idolize what others have, what they do, and who they are rather than discovering the unique ways in which God reveals himself in and through our own lives. We are living secondhand lives and dying from a secondhand faith. A secondhand faith can neither sustain nor transform life. That happens only by firsthand experience. Think about it for just a minute. Would you rather be told how pretty the sunset was or be drenched in the pinks, oranges, and purples of the evening sky? Would you rather hear a love story or fall in love and live a love story? Would you rather read a travel brochure or travel to a new land? Would you rather know about Christ or know him? That's the difference between a secondhand faith and a firsthand experience. Our relationship with Christ, with one another, and with ourselves cannot be based on a secondhand faith. It must be a firsthand experience.

A firsthand experience won't let us stay where we are. It moves us to a new place. It opens our eyes to a new reality. It turns our life in a different direction. It gives, grows, and sustains life in a way secondhand faith never will. The deepest and most profound firsthand experience is Jesus himself. In each of our lives he comes toward us. His coming is always a moment of decision. We must choose whether we will be spectators of or participants in his life. That was the choice John the Baptist set before his disciples. John "was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!'" It was their moment of decision. Would they stay or would they go? Would they settle for a secondhand faith, information and facts about Jesus, or would they choose a firsthand experience of his life? If they choose a firsthand experience, they will have to leave John behind. They will have to let go of that which is familiar, comfortable, and known. They will have to open themselves to something new and something different. You can probably remember times like that. It can be difficult to let go of a secondhand faith and life. It usually means there will be more questions than answers. What are you looking for? Where are you staying? Those are not so much questions to be answered as they are experiences waiting and wanting to be lived. A firsthand experience invites us to discover the answers by living the questions.

Think how different today's gospel would be if Jesus had just answered their question. "Where are you staying?" "Oh, it's just a couple miles down this road. Second house on the left." What do we do with that? How does that change anything? What difference does it make if we know Jesus' address but we are not invited in. We might as well stay where we are. But that's not how Jesus responds. Jesus offers more than his address. "Come and see," he says. There is reassurance and promise in his words. That means that he has something for us. It means that he is opening himself to us and inviting us in. He has gone ahead of us and prepared a place for us. Regardless of what's going on in our life he makes it safe to move forward and take the next step in confidence that his life and presence await us. "Come and see" is his invitation to find ourselves and discover our lives.

I wonder what Jesus wants to show you? In what ways does he want to share his life with you? How might he be offering himself to you, asking you to participate in his life? Look at your life. What do you

see? What is it like? Is it full and abundant? "Come and see." Empty and desolate? "Come and see." Filled with change, chaos, or the unknown? "Come and see." Is it one of joy and celebration? "Come and see." One of loss and sorrow? "Come and see." Do you feel lost and confused? "Come and see." Is it smooth sailing? "Come and see." Is it weighed down by guilt, shame, despair? "Come and see." However, you might describe your life Jesus' response is always the same.

Jesus knows that we are all looking for something. The question is what. What are we looking for? Where is it taking us? If it is not taking us home; if it is not offering us hope and a way through the tragedies of life; if it is not filling us with compassion for the world; if it is not opening our eyes to a new way of being, a new way of seeing, a new way of living; if it is not deepening our relationships; if it is not revealing love; if it is not growing us more and more into the likeness of Christ we might want to look again. We might want to look for something else for we have denied our "choosiness" and settled for less than God is offering. Every life and every situation echo with Christ's invitation, "Come and see." He is there offering himself as the firsthand experience of your truest self your truest life. Don't just take my word for it. Don't believe it just because I said it. Get up and go look for yourself. **Amen!**

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

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY 8:00 PM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY 7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM AA MEETING

SATURDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

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

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Giordano	Deb Giordano
Coffee Hour	Deb Giordano	Judy Golden

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	Gabriel
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Mary & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim
Nathan Treadwell	Vincent	Art

Margaret

Lourdes S.

Elodie

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

Prayer for the New Year

God our Father, thank you for being the God who walks besides those who love
Him in the Valley of the Shadow of

Death. I rejoice in the continued presence of the Holy Spirit

with me, so that I am never alone. Lord, I lift up a sincere request for happiness
during this year of difficulty. Help me

find joy, that I may be strengthened spiritually, and happiness that I may continue
to engage with those around

me with Christian love. Sometimes it can be hard to see Your hand moving when
everything around me seems dark.

Help me find happiness so that I can see Your work, even if

I do not understand it fully right now. I know that You use all things for Your
glory, and for my good. I ask that You keep my focus on You during this New
Year. In the name of

Jesus Christ, I pray. 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

