

**Church of the Divine Love**

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 16**

**AUGUST 21, 2022**

**9:00 A.M.**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

*Please observe silence*

**THE WORD OF GOD**

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 58:9b-14**

Psalm 103:1-8

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 12:18-29**

Gradual Hymn – #

Gospel: **Luke 13:10-17**

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 #

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 – #

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn – #

Dismissal

**Sermon Sunday August 21, 2022**

Isaiah 58:9b-14; Psalm 103:1-8; Hebrews 12:18-28; Luke 13:10-17

**Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

I'm going to ask you to do a couple of things and I hope you will indulge me for a bit. I want you to think of one thing that is going on in the world today that is important and matters to you. Something that you keep up with in the news, that you have opinions and beliefs about, and that maybe you even post about in social media or talk about with those who are like minded.

There's not a right or wrong answer here. I'm not concerned with what the topic is or what you believe about it. It could be an international event, a national concern, something local, or even a personal matter. It could be political, economic, environmental, or social. It could be, for example, who you'll vote for in November, the democratic candidates and their policies, the republican candidates, or congress in general. It might be about climate change and the health of our environment, the Coronavirus, gun violence, racism, discrimination or violence against women, Islam in the world, or Israel and Palestine. It might be about our wars, the direction our country is moving, or the polarization and divisiveness in our world.

It might be about economic policies or health care and insurance. It might be about the poor, welfare recipients, the immigrants, and refugees of the world. It might be about a decision you need to make, a relationship, or something concerning your marriage, family, or work. I suspect the most difficult thing about what I am asking you to do is to pick only one thing when there are, for most of us, so many to choose from. But for today, one will do. So, you got it? You know what it is? Now let me ask you this. Does your worship on Sunday affect how you see and deal with whatever it is you chose? If so, how? If not, why not? In what ways do the Sunday prayers, the scriptures, the Body and Blood, inform and guide your thinking? Are they the lens through which you see the world and others, hear the news, and make decisions? Do you carry them with you through the rest of the week or do you leave them at the door as you "go in peace to love and serve the Lord?"

What I'm really asking is whether Jesus, the gospel, the law, and the prophets, have anything to do with our politics, economics, social values, and personal decisions. I know I'm getting close to meddling, to stepping on political toes and calling into question personal beliefs and opinions. Maybe I've already crossed that line. But when I look at what's happening in the world today, what we're doing to each other, the things we're saying about those who disagree with us, the way we claim God is on our side, I wonder if we are salt that has lost its flavor and light that is hidden under a bushel basket.

A friend of mine often reminds me that the gospel, the good news of Jesus, is sometimes bad news before it is good news. It asks us to face up to ourselves before we face down another. And facing up to ourselves is rarely fun or easy, whether you're the preacher or the listener. That's the challenge Isaiah holds before us this morning (Isaiah 58:1-12). "Shout out, do not hold back!" God tells Isaiah. "Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion. "Their rebellion is that they are fasting, doing the religious thing, for their own interest and at the same time oppressing others. They are fasting, doing the religious thing, but it hasn't changed their lives. They still quarrel, fight, and strike "with a wicked fist." Such fasting, God says, will not let their "voice be heard on high." That is not the fast God chooses.

Maybe we should spend less time speaking the truth about God and more time doing the truth of God. What would that look like in your life? What would that mean for the things that are important and matter to you? How might that change your decisions, priorities, or opinions? Speaking through Isaiah, God says that means untying and freeing another from the bonds of injustice. It means letting the oppressed go free. It means sharing our bread with the hungry and bringing the homeless poor into our house. It means giving clothes to the naked. It means stop pointing the finger and speaking evil of others. It means satisfying the needs of the afflicted. We can hunger for a meal, and we can hunger for love. We can be homeless on the streets, and we can be homeless within ourselves. Nakedness might mean we have no clothes or that we have no hope.

I wish doing the truth were as easy as writing a check, donating some food or clothes, or building a homeless shelter. But I don't think it is. I am not against those things, and I hope we will always respond with compassion and generosity. Those things need to be done but we need to be careful they don't become just another day of fasting in which nothing changes. So, if you don't mind my asking, what is Jesus calling out to you to do? How is Jesus calling you to stand up straight, to be released from your bound up spirit? And what is your response to such grace? You don't even need to ask him; Jesus is already working among you. Jesus is calling out to you, inviting you into his presence, inviting you into his grace. Jesus is reaching out to touch each one here, to heal you and to include you in his love. For Jesus is walking toward you, reaching out to touch you, ready to heal you of your brokenness, to restore you to wholeness, to claim you as his own. It's time to stand up.

We've all had days when the burdens of life have weighed us down and we've all had those horrible days when it seemed easier to heap burdens upon others because the best we could muster was some kind of hypocrisy that enslaved a sister or a brother. And we've all had those days when we have been set free to be the people God intended us to be and we can't help but sing God's praise. But if this were just a story where you could relate to a crippled woman who is healed and a few hypocrites who want to spoil the party it would just be an ordinary story and we could, depending on the kind of day we are having be satisfied with identifying ourselves as either blessed or burdened. But this is not just an ordinary story. Because we are gathered here in this place; and here in the church, which is the Body of Christ, each of us is called to be Christ to one another. Which means that in addition to identifying ourselves with the one who is healed and the ones who are hypocrites, we are also called to identify ourselves with Christ for we are called to be healers. We are called to set one another free! We are called to lift one another's burdens! We are called to lift the burdens of injustice, disease, sadness, poverty, and even the burdens of death.

Like Christ, we are called to challenge the religious practices and beliefs of our day that are insensitive to peoples' suffering. We worship a God who created us to stand up full and free and have the courage to look God in the eye and to ask God to share our burdens. We worship a God that wants us to stand tall and look one another in the eyes; set one another free, call one another to account and rejoice in God's steadfast abundant grace. So do not let your burdens weigh you down. Do not let rules and regulations and law turn you into self-righteous hypocrites. Rise up! Rise up, look around and in the faces of your sisters and brothers see the face of Christ and let them see the face of Christ that is in you. **Amen!**

## Masks optional with social distance seating

11 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
	10:00 AM	VESTRY MEETING	
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	
12 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	Anthony Giordano	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:

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

