

Church of the Divine Love

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 8

JULY 2, 2023 9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#599 – Lift every voice and sing**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Jeremiah 28:5-9**

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18

Second Lesson: **Romans 6:12-23**

Gradual Hymn **#525, vs. 1,2,4,5 – The Church's one foundation**

Gospel: **Matthew 10:40-42**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (printed on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#607 – O God of every nation**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 367

Hymn during Consecration – on insert

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn **#717 – My country, 'tis of thee**

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn **#720 – National Anthem**

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday July 2nd, 2023

Genesis 22:1-14; Psalm 13; Romans 6:12-23; Matthew 10:40-42

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

When I was a kid, my mom often said to me, Jean, I can read your tracks before you make them.

Sometimes she could see things about my life I couldn't see for myself. Other times she told me what I already knew but it made more sense when I heard it from her. Sometimes we had

difficult but meaningful conversations and other times she told me truths I did not want to hear. Sometimes she caused me to reconsider and be more thoughtful about what I was doing. Other times I tried to cover my tracks. I became more stubborn or sneaky.

I didn't always welcome her reading my tracks. Back then that often felt like interference, a warning, or even a threat. Today it feels like love, care, concern. I have others in my life today who can read my tracks before I make them – my wife Marie, and May be some of you here. I suspect you have had and maybe still have track readers in your life too. Who has read your tracks? In what ways did she or he give your insight to yourself or open your eyes to what was happening? What truths were revealed? What conversations were begun? How did it change you or the direction of your life? What was asked of you?

Whoever that was, she or he was a prophet. Have you ever thought of that person as a prophet? That's not how I thought about my mom back then. And she probably didn't think of herself as a prophet. But sometimes we are. We read the tracks of our children or grandchildren, friends, or colleagues even before they have been made and offer truths, hope, wisdom. When we think of a prophet most of us probably think of one of the Old Testament prophets; Jeremiah, Isaiah, Amos. Some might think of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Archbishop Oscar Romero, or Archbishop Desmond Tutu as modern prophets.

But I have also begun to see those track reading people in my life as prophets. My mom didn't foresee my future, but she could see the consequences of my choices, actions, and the direction I was going, and she wanted something more for me, something different. She spoke with insight, not foresight. That's what prophets do. They reflect deeply on what is happening in the present moment and call us back to our better selves, our truer selves. Sometimes they speak to individuals and sometimes they speak to entire nations, to a people. That's the biblical tradition of prophecy and it is, I think, what is happening in our country today. A prophet isn't one who predicts the future. A prophet is one who calls for and insists on change. It's one who disturbs the complacency of the present moment, interrupts business as usual, and provokes change. The prophet is a person who is not tolerant of wrongs done to others, who resents other people's injuries. The prophet interferes on behalf of the weak, the poor, the oppressed. The prophet draws a line in the sand. That's what we hear from the great prophets of Israel.

It's Isaiah saying, "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow." (Isaiah 1:17) "Is not this the fast that I choose," he asks, "to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?" (Isaiah 58:6). It's Amos saying, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream." (Amos 5:24). It's Jeremiah calling for justice and

righteousness, and that no wrong or violence be done to the alien, the orphan, or the widow. (Jeremiah 22:3) The great prophets of Israel resisted complacency as the enemy of true peace. King, Romero, and Tutu resisted complacency. I sometimes wonder if we have confused the two and settled for complacency over peace. Jeremiah puts it like this, “They have treated the wound of my people carelessly, saying, ‘Peace, peace,’ when there is no peace.” (Jeremiah 6:14).

Look at everything that is happening today – the pandemic, the economy, political dysfunction, the killing of George Floyd and all those before him, the Black Lives Matter protests, graffiti and violence, mistrust of the media and the government, calls for police reform. Those are not just problems to be fixed. Each one is a voice in a prophetic chorus crying out for change and warning of the consequences if we don't. Each one of those is reading our tracks before we make them. And it is painful. It's painful to see and it's painful to hear. More often than not prophets awaken us from our complacency. They let us know what we do not want to know, show us what we do not want to see, tell us what we do not want to hear, and confront us with what we do not want to acknowledge. Those places of our resistance, however, are also the places of our growth. They are gateways into the deep heart of our humanity. They are the places where we can begin to get our life back on track, as individuals and as a country.

The prophetic cry is not about condemnation, judgment, or punishment. It is a calling, an asking, an insisting that believes we can be more and do differently. It sees more for us than we see for ourselves. It believes more about us than we believe about ourselves. The prophet's cry is about hope, healing, and more life. Prophets have a dream for the people to whom they speak, not a prediction. What would it be like for you to welcome the prophet's dream in your life today and in the life of our country? What is that dream asking of you? What do you need to do, change, or give up in order to be a part of that dream? How can you help that dream come true for others? Read the tracks. Hear the cry. And welcome the dream.

When we welcome Christ, Christ welcomes us. The prophet's welcome is the welcome Jesus extends to us. We are welcome in God's presence, through his Son. The prophet's reward is living in God's holy presence for all eternity. Sometimes our dreams don't match reality. Sometimes we don't see things the way they really are in God's amazing, fabulous design. Our dreams are too small, our vision is too limited. Then, together, we can find welcome at Christ's table, and extend that welcome to others who are thirsty for more than a cup of cold water, they are thirsty for God. **Amen!**

5 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
MONDAY	8:30 PM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:30 PM	AA MEETING	
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
6 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Jess Berbeck

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella	Lourdes S.	Kaylee
Bob Curley	Arlene Goodenough	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Bethany
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Phil Ryder	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Robert Hosey	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
Mary & Family	Christopher	Amy
Nathan Treadwell	Vincent	Judy
Celeste	Ciara	Dennis

All people and countries suffering from violence and hatred.

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 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

