

Church of the Divine Love

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 10

JULY 14, 2024 9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Prayer before worship – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Amos 7:7-15**

Psalm 85:8-13

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 1:3-14**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Mark 6:14-29**

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

The 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 B page 367

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 367

Hymn during Consecration (printed on insert)

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 July 14, 2024

Amos 7: 7-15; Psalm 85:8-13; Ephesians 1:3-14; Mark 6: 14-29.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Do you ever feel like your life is haunted, like something unresolved has come to visit? Do you ever feel like something is wandering the hallways of your heart and mind, a presence that is not quite a presence? Let me give you some examples of what I'm asking about.

Have you ever had the same dream over and over? Have you ever had the same images appear in your dreams? What is that dream or image? What does it want from you? Why do you think it won't go away? Do you ever replay in your head particular events or experiences wishing you could go back and redo or undo what happened, or what you said or did? It's as if our past has been raised, is alive, and

ever present. Do you sometimes feel like guilt, regret, or disappointment are always lurking close by, tracking and following you? No matter what you do or how long it's been you just can't get past the feeling. What thoughts never go away? Even when you're not thinking them, they just show up uninvited and unwanted. What memories would you like to erase or delete? You want to forget them, have tried to forget them, but they're always there. They won't let themselves be deleted.

Herod orders one of his soldiers to carry out the dastardly deed and there, in Herod's fortress in present day Jordan, the head of John is delivered on a platter. When John's followers received word of the grisly execution, they retrieve his body and lay it in a tomb. Herod was haunted by his decision to kill John the Baptist, because when word begins to spread about Jesus and his amazing powers, the first reaction of Herod is to say that John the Baptist has been raised from the dead. The beheading of John the Baptist forces us to bring the pain and suffering and injustice of the world into our sanctuary. It reminds us that the Bible is filled with neither wishful thinking nor blind optimism, and the Christian faith is not based on a naïve view of the world. Bad things, horrific things, unforgivable things happen to good people.

I wonder what haunts your life today. I think we all have those kind of thoughts, feelings, memories, dreams, and experiences. They keep showing up, asking to be acknowledged, and wanting to be dealt with. No matter how many times we let go of them, they won't let go of us. And I wonder if that's what's going on with Herod in today's gospel (**Mark 6:14-29**). I wonder if he's a haunted man. When Herod heard about Jesus and his disciples, and the powers at work in Jesus, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." That's how Mark puts it but that sounds too sanitized and calm to me. I think Mark has cleaned it up a bit. I imagine it was more like this: He's back. I thought I was done with that locust eater. Why won't he let me be!?

Jesus' deeds of power, calming the stormy sea, casting out demons, healing the hemorrhaging woman, raising Jairus' daughter, have confronted Herod with his own abuse of power, the beheading of John the baptizer. He killed the truth teller but the truth John told just won't die. It won't leave Herod alone. Herod is a haunted man. He's a confused and conflicted man. The confusion and conflict, however, are not between Herod and John, they're within Herod. They're between Herod and himself. Something unresolved has come to visit Herod. On the one hand Herod knew John was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. On the other hand, Herod feared John and the truth he held up. On the one hand Herod liked to listen to John. On the other hand, he was greatly perplexed by what he heard. If you know God wants you to say something, say it. Do not cover up the truth or shy away from speaking it for the sake of your own comfort or to avoid some difficult consequences. We should follow Paul's advice in Ephesians to speak the truth in love.

When we commit ourselves to following Jesus, we declare that in the end, violence and injustice and suffering will be no more, because love and peace and mercy will prevail. Such faith allows us to persevere in a world of both monsters and saints, anguish and joy, tragedy and triumph. Further, we dare to adopt the words of the Apostle Paul as our own: "I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed to us." (**Romans 8:18**). There are some

things in life that are so painful, cruel, and unjust, that you never make peace with them. You ask God to give you the strength to carry them and you pray that God's healing balm will prevent your bitterness from poisoning your soul. St. Teresa of Avila said, "If Christ Jesus dwells in a person as his friend and noble leader, that person can endure all things, for Christ helps and strengthens us and never abandons us." The powers of darkness have not yet surrendered. Thus, suffering and death still have their days. Yet, we still believe that God brings light out of darkness and life out of death, so we persevere and we live in defiance of all that seeks to destroy.

I know what that conflict and confusion are like and I suspect you do too. We all have our specters, the unresolved parts of ourselves and our lives that come back to visit us. We all live hunted lives. And just like Herod we are usually haunted by what we have beheaded. I'm talking about beheading as a metaphor for the ways in which we deny, ignore, reject, and turn away from parts of ourselves and our lives. I'm talking about the ways in which we cut off parts of ourselves and aspects of our lives instead of dealing with them. They are the parts of ourselves that we keep private and hidden not only from others but mostly from ourselves. It might be something we've done or said. It might be a relationship or past experience. It might be a personality trait, behavior, or attitude. It might be thoughts, feelings, fantasies. Sometimes they are things we are not even aware of until someone points them out and when they do we feel angry, hurt, or betrayed.

We often call those cut off parts of our lives our shadow side. It's the dark side of who we are. Our shadowy side isn't necessarily bad, it's just that we don't recognize, acknowledge, or deal with it. But here's the thing. We can never get away from our shadow. It haunts us. It won't let us go. "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised." Do you remember being a kid and trying to outrun or get away from your shadow on a sunny day? How'd that work for you? And how's that working for you today? Those shadow parts of our lives continue to visit us and when they do, we usually fight even harder to push them aside. We think the things that haunt us are our enemy but what if that's just not true?

I wonder what it would be like for you and me to hold what haunts us as a beckoning hand to our future. We should be careful that we don't do wrong things in order to satisfy some powerful people around us or so that we won't look bad to them. Be pleasers of God rather than pleasers of man. John is an example of that. He stood up to Herod even though it would cost him his life. **Amen.**

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 10

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

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, PROPER 11

9:00 AM PROANAPHORA (also on zoom)

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Jess Berbeck
Coffee	Janet Croft	Dana Kenn

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:

Manetta Family	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
John Mulligan	John Rocco	Judy

Warren	Donna A.	Kristen
Christopher	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Jerry & Family	Phil Ryder	Henry
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Robert Hosey	Beverly Noel	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Ciara
Mary & Family	Ann Turco	Jan
Grace Schinella	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Marjorie Guerrier	Joseph
Nathan Treadwell	Evelyn	

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

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.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email
Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

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 forever. Amen

