

Church of the divine love

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 29

NOVEMBER 24, 2024 10:15 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: **Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14**

Psalm 93

Second Lesson: **Revelation 1:4b-8**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **John 18:33-37**

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)

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| The Great Thanksgiving: | |
| Eucharistic Prayer B | page 367 |
| Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) | page 367 |
| 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 For the Parish | page 817 |
| Prayer of St. Francis | page 833 |
| Dismissal Hymn # | |

Sermon Sunday November 24, 2024

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14; Psalm 93; Revelation 1: 4b-8; John 18:33-37.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Do you ever feel like you are one person here and another person over there? Do you sometimes change who you are and how you present yourself depending on where you are and who you are with? I suspect we all do.

In some settings and with some people there is integrity and alignment between who I say I am, my words and actions, and the values and truths that govern my life. Everything lines up. I'm honest, whole, and real. I'm comfortable in my own skin. But in other settings and with other people I change. I get scared or doubt myself and the real me doesn't show up. Who I am on the outside doesn't match who I am on the inside. My yes is not yes and my no is not no (**Matthew 5:37**). My words and actions, or more often my silence and passivity, contradict the values I claim to hold. I betray my own integrity. I lose myself. Maybe you know what that's like. I think being truly ourselves is one of the hardest things we do these days, and getting harder. Don't you sometimes struggle to be yourself and have authenticity and integrity regardless of where you are, who you're with, or what is happening? I think that struggle is at the heart of Jesus' conversation with Pilate in today's gospel (**John 18:33-37**, Christ the King Sunday. I think Jesus struggled and wrestled with his authenticity and integrity just like we do.

I think that's what was happening during his forty days in the wilderness. He was wrestling with his

identity, what he would do, and the truth to which he would testify. Who am I? What am I about? What values guide my life? What are the truths to which I bear witness? Maybe the real temptation of the wilderness is to be other than who we really are. That temptation, however, is not limited to the wilderness. It's the temptation that meets us wherever we go. Identity, action, and truth are the three questions at the heart of today's conversation between Pilate and Jesus. And they won't get finalized there. They're always in process. They're never-ending questions. They're the questions that will haunt Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and cause him to "be distressed and agitated" and "deeply grieved" (**Mark 14:32-34**). I want to use those questions and the conversation between Pilate and Jesus as a lens through which to reflect on our lives.

"Are you the king of the Jews?" Pilate asks. It's like asking, who are you? Pilate wants a yes or no answer, a definition. He wants information. Jesus knows that it's not a simple question answered by yes or no, our name, the work we do, the roles we fill, our birthplace, where we live, or who we're related to. Jesus deepens and changes the direction of Pilate's question. "Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?" It's as if he is asking, who's directing your life? Is it you or someone or something else? Who is it for you? Who or what directs your life today? Is it Wall Street, the Republicans, the Democrats, your work or family, your reputation, your anger or grief, voices or wounds from the past? Is it the gospel of Christ and values or qualities you find expressed there? Whatever directs our life also identifies and defines us. It tells us who we are and are not. Who or what is directing your life today? Are you who you want to be? Do you like who you are today? Might there be more to you than who you've become? What could you do to narrow that gap? "What have you done?" Pilate asks and Jesus responds, "My kingdom is not from this world." Jesus moves that question from the outside to the inside. It's as if Jesus is saying you can't understand what I've done apart from the values I hold. For Jesus the kingdom represents God's ultimate values, God's desires and best hopes for the world, you, and me.

Our actions and words reveal the values we hold and the values we hold are expressed in what we do and speak. Our outside and our inside are always in relationship, sometimes through alignment and other times through contradiction. What have you done? Look at what you are doing in your life today. Listen to what you are saying or posting on social media. Consider what you've said and done the past year. What values are being revealed, affirmed, or contradicted? What do they have to do with the gospel? Is that who you want to be and how you want to live? And if it's not, what will you do about it? Pilate concludes, "So you are a king?" to which Jesus says, "You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Jesus is once again deflecting and redirecting Pilate's question. It's as if Jesus is saying to Pilate, Yeah, whatever. You still don't get it. It's not about a title, it's about truth. And for Jesus truth is not a fact, a concept, or a proposition. Truth is a way of being. It's something to be done not believed in.

To make truth a belief is too easy. I can believe the truth of love but am I loving you, my neighbor, my enemy? I can believe the truth of forgiveness but what does that matter if I don't forgive? I can believe the truth of welcoming the stranger and still close my doors and heart to the migrant and refugee. I can believe the truth of a thousand different things and never do a one of them. And if I'm not doing the truth, it doesn't much matter what I say I believe. Jesus testified to the truth by doing the truth; by

loving, forgiving, welcoming, healing, feeding. What about you and me? What is the truth in your life today? What truth are we doing? What truth is still waiting to be done by you and me? Jesus never let his identity, action, or truth doing be determined by where he was or who he was with. Instead, he brought his identity, action, and truth doing to every place he went, every person he met, and every circumstance he faced. Who he was here is who he was over there. That's how I want to live, don't you?

The truth to which Jesus testifies is the God who is beyond the circumstances of this world and yet always present in the circumstances of this world. Jesus came into the world to tell us about that truth, to show us what it looks like in a human life, and teach us how to be a part of and belong to that truth. To seek and claim sole and exclusive possession of the truth is the way of Pilate and the way of the world, but it is not the way of Christ. Jesus never asks us to possess the truth about him or anything else. Instead, he asks us to belong to the truth, to let ourselves be possessed by his truth, and listen to his voice. Our struggle for authenticity and integrity is the struggle to reclaim ourselves. It's the way of healing and wholeness, and it's always a work in process. Every place we go, every person we meet, every circumstance we face hold before us questions of our authenticity and integrity.

In every time, in every place, in every situation there is always that other voice. It is always speaking to us. It speaks in today's world, in your life, and in my life. That's the voice I want to listen to. That's the truth to which I want to belong. That's the life I want to live. What about you? The reign of Christ the King frees us to step outside the status quo and not just live in a new kingdom but to be and become a new kingdom – the Kingdom of God. **Amen.**

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD – Today is the last day

to return boxes.

Please remember to turn in your pledge card by Sunday, Dec. 1st

LAST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – PROPER 29

| | | |
|-----------|----------|---------------------------|
| | 10:15 AM | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II |
| | | COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS |
| | | SET-UP FOR CHRITSMAS SALE |
| 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 |
| 1 ADVENT | 10:15 AM | HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II |
| | | COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS |
| | 11:15 AM | VESTRY MEETING |

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|----------------------|------------------|------------|
| | Today | Next Week |
| Eucharistic Minister | Anthony Giordano | Ro Prosser |
| Coffee | Erika Febres | Prossers |

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:

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| Sister Eddie | Betty Curley | Jess |
| Bob Curley | Steve Curley | Art |
| Chris Dickson | John Rocco | Deb P. |
| John Mulligan | Marjorie Guerrier | Lynette |

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------|---------|
| Manetta Family | Robert Hosey | Ryan |
| Christopher | Bernie Walther | Celeste |
| Annie | Phil Ryder | Warren |
| Anthony Paribello | Barbara Curran | Del |
| Donna A. | Kate Jones | Aidan |
| Sally & Roger | Sophia | Ciara |
| Mary & Family | Ann Turco | Jan |
| Nathan Treadwell | Gladys Hadija | Vincent |
| Michael & Family | Matthew Treasure | Mo |
| Michelle & Baby | Joseph | Wendy |

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 for ever. Amen

