

Church of the Divine Love

FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 15, 2022

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#304-I come with joy to meet my Lord**

Opening Acclamation for Easter page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 11:1-18**

Psalm 148

Second Lesson: **Revelation 21:1-6**

Gradual Hymn – **#529 – In Christ there is no East or West**

Gospel: **John 13:31-35**

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 **#488 – Be thou my vision**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
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 – #315 – Thou, who at thy first Eucharist	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #400, vs. 1,4,5,7 – All creatures of our God and King	
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday May 15, 2022

Acts 11: 1-18; Psalm 148; Revelation 21: 1-6; John 13: 31-35.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today's gospel takes us back to that final meal Jesus shared with his disciples. John doesn't describe this as a Passover meal like the other gospel writers do, this meal happens on the night before Passover begins. According to John, Jesus will be crucified at about the same time that the lambs are sacrificed in the Temple in preparation for the Passover meal. But John gives us something the other gospel authors do not: he tells us in great detail what Jesus said to his disciples during this final night they have together.

"I saw a new heaven and a new earth," St. John says. "I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God." I heard "the one who was seated on the throne, 'See, I am making all things new.' "Sometimes the darkness of the circumstances, however, makes it difficult to see and hear that all things are being made new. How fitting it is then that today's gospel takes us back to another dark night, a last supper, a betrayal, a departure, an impending death. It is the night before Jesus' crucifixion. He has fed his disciples. He's washed their feet. Judas has stepped out into the night of betrayal. Jesus tells his disciples that he is leaving and that they cannot go with him. Peter and Thomas will ask what everyone is thinking. "Why not?" "Where are you going?" "How will we find our way?" They, no doubt, feel the structures of their lives crumbling and the ground shaking. Their world is changing.

The disciples will have to learn, see, and trust that even in the midst of terror and tragedy, chaos and pain, death and sorrow all things are being made new. So must we. We too must learn that God's

“making new” happens in the midst of, not apart from, the circumstances of our lives and world. Even as that is the disciples’ work so too it is our work, and it is not easy work. It is some of the most difficult work we ever do. Ultimately, it is the work of love. “I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for one another. This commandment is Jesus’ departing instructions. It is less something to be accomplished, done, and more a way of living and being, an orientation and disposition. It will ensure Jesus’ presence among the disciples and continue his work of making all things new. “Love one another.” The space Jesus once physically occupied amongst his disciples is now to be filled with their love for one another.

There is something about our love for one another that is iconic, revelatory, and makes Christ present in whatever circumstances we might find ourselves. Jesus’ command to love one another is both our preparation for and our participation in his resurrected life here and now. Love reveals the new heaven and new earth. Love is the gateway, the entry, into the new Jerusalem. Love makes all things new. Love is both the means and the goal, a journey that has no ending and a destination that has no fixed point. The love Jesus commands is independent of who the other is or our feelings about him or her. It is not determined by our assessment of his or her qualities or lovability. It takes us beyond sentimentality, emotions, and familial kinship. It is less about a feeling and more about a choice. If we are Jesus’s disciples, we show it by choosing to love one another. The mark of Christ’s disciples is not what they believe but how they love. This morning’s Gospel reading is so timely for us because it shows us what is most important. As we gather in worship today, we affirm that the greatest blessing that God has given us is God’s love for us, God’s love that forgives us our sins and makes us children of God; God’s love that brings us together into a fellowship with one another.

Love is the commitment, attachment, and loyalty to another that is embodied and enacted in concrete ways. We do not believe or reason our way into loving one another. We act our way into loving another. That’s what Jesus did. His life, death, and resurrection are nothing less than the embodiment and enactment of love. You and I, his disciples, continue that through our love for one another. It’s all pretty simple when you get right down to it. It’s about people, life, and circumstances. It is about seeing that the home of God is among mortals. It looks like people running towards the explosion to help the injured. It’s eyes looking for movement in the rubble, ears listening for a whimper, and bare hands digging for life. It’s a bedside vigil when all you can do is hold a hand. It’s standing next to another and listening to his or her diagnosis. It’s cooking and delivering a meal to one whose appetite has been stolen by sorrow. It’s the courage to sit with the pain and loss of another knowing you have no idea of what to say or do. It’s the giving of one’s money to care for another whom we have never and will never meet. It’s a silent night of tears and prayer.

These and a thousand other acts like them are the acts of love that have been done for us and, by God’s grace, we do for another. When I see these things happening, I see a new heaven and a new earth, and I know myself to be living in the new Jerusalem. When I hear stories about these acts of love, I experience all things being made new. We belong to something greater. We belong to the Kingdom of God. Our identity is not in an institution or an organizational structure or a legal system. Our identity is in Jesus Christ, who loves us, who died for us, who rose again, who rules over heaven and earth, and who will one day come in glory to call us to himself. Our purpose, as beloved children of God, is only this one thing: to love. To love without judgment. To love without fear. To love without bias, or qualification, or exception. To love as Christ has loved us

St. John's vision is a reality as close as the person next to you and as broad as the stranger on the other side of the world. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. We are to love the people we want to love and the people we can't stand. We are to love the people who live the way we think they should, and we are to love the people who don't. We are to love the people who are just like us, and the people who are so different from us we can't see how we have anything in common. We are to love as Jesus loved, including people in our lives, walking beside them, eating with them, caring for them, listening to them, including them as an integral part of us. Because that's what Jesus says. Love Each Other. **Amen.**

5 EASTER **10:15 AM** **HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II** (also on zoom)

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

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

6 EASTER **10:15 AM** **HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

(also on zoom)

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

Spring clean-up day – Saturday, May 21

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Jess Berbeck	Deb Giordano
Altar Guild	Roe Prosser	Deb Giordano
	BeverlyNoel	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Cathy & John Nolan	Deb & Anthony

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:

Carol K.	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Julia	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Dorothy
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Tim
Theresa K.	People of Ukraine	Amy E.
Nathan Treadwell	Christopher & Family	Maggie & Family

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

