

Church of the Divine Love
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 12

JULY 25, 2021

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #693, v 1-4, **Just as I am**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (S-280 in hymnal) page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **2 Kings 4:42-44**

Psalm 145:10-19

Second Lesson: **Ephesians 3:14-21**

Gradual Hymn #304 – **I come with joy to meet my Lord**

Gospel: **John 6:1-21**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn – **Yes He Can** (see insert)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer A page 361

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 #455 – **O Love of God**

Post Communion Prayer

page 366

Prayer of St. Francis

page 833

Dismissal Hymn – **God Who Listens** (see insert)

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday July 25, 2021

2 Kings 4: 42-44; Psalm 145: 10-19; Ephesians 3: 14-21; John 6: 1-21

In the name of our loving, liberating and life-giving God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Have you ever had to prepare a meal for a large group of people with little or no advance notice? When you prepared that meal, did you ever stop to wonder how you would do it, especially if you realized that you did not have enough food and you did not have the time or money to go to the grocery store? If that is the case, perhaps you can sympathize with the disciples in the story of the feeding of the crowd, which we heard from John's Gospel a few minutes ago.

Jesus had been teaching the crowd all day, and it was almost time for the evening meal. The disciples wanted Jesus to dismiss the people so they could go and buy food in the neighboring towns and villages. Jesus had other ideas. He told the disciples to feed the people. We see the reactions of two of the disciples to Jesus' instruction. Philip saw the need for a miracle and calculated the odds. He tried to prove that it could not be done. How many times are we like Philip? How often do we fail to see what God is doing because we are focused on our selfish desires and needs? Andrew, on the other hand, set out to try to solve the problem, and the solution he found is the key to the first part of this story. He searched for food among the people, but he found only one small boy with a small lunch that seemed inadequate for the task at hand. We have to give credit to Andrew for at least trying to find a solution to the problem. The meal was barely enough for one little boy, let alone sufficient to satisfy the appetite of a grown man. When Jesus accepted the boy's gift, he blessed it, and in the blessing the small became great. There was suddenly enough bread because Jesus saw the people and wanted them to be fed, just like Jesus saw the fear in his disciples on the sea. He loved the disciples and the crowd and gave both groups the peace of his presence.

Jesus can take anything we give him, no matter how big or how small, and multiply it to be used to do his work in the world. All life and all good gifts come from God. Jesus comes to open our hearts and our hands to those around us. We can do that only because he opens our eyes to his own presence as the grace-and-peace-filled us when we have Jesus on our side. When Jesus sets an impossible task before us, he knows what he is going to do, but he wants us to see how we will react. Will we react in fear, confusion, or faith? Jesus tested the disciples. He wanted them to fail so that he might strengthen them. Jesus also tests us for the same reason. Failure gives us strength. We and the disciples should have

learned a lesson from this story. We must never gauge the size of a challenge in terms of our capability. God calls us to commit whatever we have, and he will use it for his glory. When we give ourselves into God's hands, we become instruments in his service. We can then serve many people who are hungry physically or spiritually. When we come to the end of our resources, God comes in with his resources. In Jesus, there is more than enough for everyone.

The miracle of giving is that it produces a ministry of giving. Money is a miracle because it increases when we give it away, especially when we give it away to God so he can use it to do his work in our world. Jesus gives us ample resources, but we have to receive them before we can share them with others. This story has to do with faith in Jesus rather than his compassion. It is also about God's ability to take too little and change it into more than enough. Jesus intended for his miracle to point people to God. That included his disciples and everyone he met. The people realized that the food they had eaten was a sign from God and that they might believe in Jesus, and they did. They realized he was the long-promised Messiah, but he was not the type of Messiah they were looking for. They were following Jesus for the spectacle, not because of who he was. They were enamored with his words and what he might do for them. Coming to God on the mountain was a fearful experience, yet it was full of expectation at the same time. Why? Because God was seen at this time in history as a mighty and exalted God.

Because he could work miracles, many people wanted to make Jesus a king. They thought that if he could feed them, he could free them from Roman rule. They wanted an earthly king who would protect them and provide for them. Instead, Jesus was a humble, servant king who would restore their relationship with God. They wanted a Messiah who would provide for their physical needs, but Jesus was the type of Messiah that would provide for their spiritual needs. He wanted their undivided attention, just like he wanted the disciples' undivided attention. Jesus got the disciples' attention thanks to the storm. He wanted them to make him their chief focus even when the storms of life take over. He also wants us to pay attention to him, especially when we face the storms of life.

A colossal testing often follows a colossal success. The real proof of discipleship is how closely a person follows Christ when his or her needs are not met right away, and the storms of life are raging. Jesus' walking on the water is a sign of his power over the living spirit of the sea—a living spirit that is dangerous and unpredictable. By telling his disciples, "It is I; do not be afraid," Jesus identified himself as the Great I AM. He comes to all of his followers in their storms and reminds them that he is the Great I AM. When Jesus walked on the water and told his disciples not to be afraid, he showed his power to rescue human inadequacy.

The story focuses on how the disciples will respond to the tests Jesus gives them. We are also being tested as we apply this story to our own lives. The test for us is how we will do the work Jesus wants us to do, especially when the task seems impossible. We must not concentrate on what we lack. We must concentrate on what we have. Jesus gives us the resources we need, but if we want to get them, we have to get rid of our earthly habits. We must starve judging and feed on kindness. We must starve indifference and feed on compassion. We must starve isolation and feed on community. There will come a time when we face a test that we declare to be impossible. When that happens, we need to take the following steps: 1. Acknowledge our inadequacy and the Lord's omnipotence. 2. Be certain the challenge before us glorifies the Lord, obeys one of his commands from Scripture, or helps to fulfill a spiritual mandate. 3. Give the challenge back to the Lord as a chance for him to accomplish it on our

behalf and receive glory for the victory. 4. Do what we can, supply what we have, put forward our effort, then let God multiply it at his discretion.

The two parts of this story are linked by Jesus' doing something totally unexpected, and it changes the lives of those around him. This story tells us that there are things in life that will catch us off guard, but nothing will catch God off guard. God sends the storms of life that we face. These storms have been engineered to strengthen us, teach us something and cause us to grow deeper in our faith. God knows what we are dealing with before it happens. He also knows how we are going to get out of the situation. He still allows the trial to happen because it will be for our benefit. Our job is to involve Jesus in any problems we are facing and to count on his presence and power. Jesus is present and ready to help in any situation of need. All we have to do is come to him in faith. **Amen!**

9 PENTECOST

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

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

10 PENTECOST

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

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

Two cemetery plots for sale by owner. Price reduced to \$1500 each.

Must be a parishioner to be buried there. Contact Bob Gilbon at

845-399-0945, or bob.gilbon@gmail.com.

Prayer for Grace and Favor :

Dear God, we ask that you provide for our needs, we ask for your grace and favor. We pray for your blessings to cover us; we pray that you would help us to prosper and make every plan that you have birthed in our heart to succeed. We pray that others would take notice of your goodness and could not help but say, "these are the ones that the Lord has blessed." Shine your light in us, through us. May we make a difference in this world, for your glory and purposes. Set your way before us. May all your plans succeed. We may reflect your peace and hope to a world that so desperately needs your presence and healing. In Jesus Name, Amen.

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:

Girard Bishop

Dorothy

Lois Kessler

Nathan Treadwell

John Loubengeiger

Chris Dickson

Michael Echevarria

Francisco Febres

Del

Martinisi Family

Michael & Family

Kathleen

Charlotte H.

Bernie Walther

James

Julia	Mo (Rachael)	Warren
Bill Conklin	Anthony Paribello	Kate Jones
Barbara Curran	Edward Lent & family	Laura
Frances & Donna Mongelli	Christopher & his family	Aidan
Elodie	Taylor	Ciara
Gabriel	The People of Haiti	

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.

