Church of the Divine Love

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 17

AUGUST 28, 2022

9:00 A.M.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Processiona	ıl Hymn	#376 –	Joyful	l, joyfı	ul, w	e ad	lore	thee
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Opening Acclamation	page 355
Collect for Purity	page 355
Gloria	page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: Sirach 10: 12-18

Psalm 112

Second Lesson: Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Gradual Hymn – I, the Lord of sea and sky (on insert)

Gospel: Luke 14:1, 7-14

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed	page 358
Prayers of the People, FormIV	page 388
The Confession of Sin	page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn #477 – All praise to thee

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer C	page 369			
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 – #321 – My God, thy table now is spread				
Post Communion Prayer	page 365			
Prayer for Peace – on insert				
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833			

Dismissal Hymn – #671 – Amazing grace! how sweet the sound

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday August 28, 2022

Sirach 10:12-18; Psalm 112; Hebrews 13:1-8,15-16; Luke 14:1,7-14

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:2). A couple of years ago I was in my Parish in Haiti, I was in the sacristy waiting for the time to start the service when the outside door of our sacristy opened, and a woman stepped in. She was unexpected, unannounced, and uninvited. She just showed up and asked what time church started. I don't know if we were entertaining an angel that day, but I do know that she was a stranger. She was not a stranger in the sense that she was unknown and unfamiliar to me. I had dealt with her before. She was, however, a stranger in the sense that she was different from me and the others in the sacristy. Her look, smell, and way of life were strange to us. I welcomed her, invited her to have a seat, told her that the service would begin in about thirty minutes, and that after I would take her into the church.

I said all the right things, at least out loud I did. But the ideas, thoughts, and conversation inside me were a bit different. My first thought was that the vestry decided to keep that door unlocked so we could get out in case of an emergency, not so a stranger could just walk in. I admit that wasn't one of my better thoughts. There was more neglect than hospitality in it. And it doesn't sound much like the kind of hospitality Jesus is talking about. When I picture her face now, I can't help but think about a couple of verses from Matthew 25: Verse 35 in which Jesus said, "I was a stranger and you welcomed me," and Verse 43 in which he said, "I was a stranger, and you did not welcome me. Welcomed or not welcomed, the mark of God is on the face of the stranger, on the other, not the same.

That's not just about an unexpected Sunday visitor. It's also about the migrant and refugee, the pregnant welfare mother, a black teenager, a Muslim man. The mark of God is on the face of the stranger, the one who isn't like you and me. That's true about all those who look, act, and live differently from us. It's true about those whose religious or political beliefs are not anything like our own. And it's true about us and all those times we've felt like a stranger in our skin. What came to your mind when I listed those different types of strangers? What feelings, thoughts, ideas did you have? Were you heart open or closed? Over and over Jesus opened his heart, spirit, and life to the stranger: lepers, prostitutes, and tax collectors, the blind and lame, the poor and powerless, widows and orphans, the hungry and sick, Gentiles and foreigners. No one was excluded. All were welcomed.

That's how I want to live and yet I struggle with the stranger. I think we all do. We're not sure what to do, what to say, or how to act. We fear the one who is different from or unknown to us. We resist being vulnerable and opening ourselves to the stranger. Here's what I mean: How often do you answer the phone when the caller ID says, Unknown caller? I suspect most of us don't. We want to know who is calling. We don't want surprises. We want the option, the control, of deciding when and for whom we'll answer the phone. When the doorbell rings do you first look to see if you recognize the car in the driveway? Have you ever asked your spouse, are you expecting someone? Have you ever looked out the window or peep hole and then pretended you weren't there? Who was the last person you invited to lunch or supper? I'm guessing it was someone you already knew when you invited him or her. We typically invite friends and family, those who are already known to us, those with whom we are comfortable, those who can serve our interests or pleasure, those whose favor we seek, those who will reciprocate or pay us back. In short, we welcome those who are already welcome, not those who are unwelcome. Have you ever received an invitation to a party or dinner at someone's house and wondered or even tried to find out who would be there? Would they be your kind of people? The kind of people you want to be with. Have you ever accepted or declined an invitation because of who else would or would not be there?

The world's hospitality is always conditional. The guests are already known, vetted, and welcome. Their names are on our invitation list. Other names are not. We take the initiative. We extend the invitation. And we decide in advance the terms and conditions of the invitation. That's not, however, hospitality in the kingdom. In the kingdom, hospitality is unconditional. We have lost the initiative. Hospitality in the

kingdom is not an invitation we initiate but a visitation we did not see coming, like an unexpected Sunday visitor, a migrant family, a beggar asking for a cup of cold water. Biblical hospitality, the kind Jesus offered and taught, means welcoming into our house and life the other, the one who is different from us, the stranger. For Jesus, hospitality extends beyond your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors. It's about the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, those who are different from us and have no power, ability, or resources to reciprocate, pay back, take us out to dinner, or serve our interests.

Kingdom hospitality leaves us feeling vulnerable and at risk. And for good reason. Kingdom hospitality tells us to open the door even before we know who is there. Let me be clear, however. I am not suggesting that we open the door to just anyone at any time of night. Jesus is not asking us to be reckless with our safety or the safety of others. And I don't want our children running up to any and every stranger they see on the street. That's not hospitality, that's foolishness. Hospitality does not begin with opening the door of our house. It begins with opening the door of our heart. Hospitality challenges me to face the ways I've closed and locked the door of my heart. When we shut the door of our heart and exclude the stranger, we also imprison ourselves. Strangers have a way of showing us ourselves and the doors we have closed. That's what happened a couple of years ago. That uninvited visitor, that stranger, revealed my estrangement from myself, the person I want to be, the values I claim to hold, the life I want to live, the faith I profess, and the Lord I follow.

Hospitality isn't so much about who the other is or isn't but who I am and how I want to be. Instead of making a guest list of who is welcome maybe we should take an inventory and make a loss of our own fears, prejudices, judgments, skepticisms, cynicisms, and profiling of others. Those are the locks on our heart's door. What does hospitality look like in your life today? To whom is your heart open and to whom is it closed? What locks are on your inventory? Who are the strangers in your life? In what ways have you become a stranger to yourself?

Finally, have you ever thought that we might be the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind? And still, Jesus freely extends his invitation and welcomes us to his table. We are sinners, and yet, by God's grace, we have seats of honor at God's table. It is a wonder that we get welcomed, though we cannot reciprocate God's hospitality. How are we to respond to the gracious generosity of God? We reciprocate by opening our lives to those who are different from us and those with whom we would not normally associate. As the writer of Hebrews reminds us in our second lesson, "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it." Amen.

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

MONDAY 8:00 AM AA MEETING

		LAST WEEK OF 9AM – 10:15 BEGINS 9/11	
13 PENTECOST	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING	
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Roe Prosser
Altar Guild	Deb Giordano	Roe Prosser
	Jess Berbeck	Marie Quatorze

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:

Grace Schinella Harriet Capers Bob Curley

John Mulligan Arlene Goodenough Celeste

Chris Dickson Kate Jones Deb P.

Michael Echevarria John Rocco Robert Sweat

Barbara Stinson Michael & Family Warren

Charlotte H. Bernie Walther Anthony

Mo (Rachael) Bill Conklin Sr. Laura

Anthony Paribello Barbara Curran Taylor

Ciara Gabriel Aidan

Elodie Sophia Del

People of Haiti Christopher & Family Julia

Maggie & Family People of Ukraine Tim

Nathan Treadwell Bob Lazevnick Art

Carol K. Carolyn

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