

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

Processional Hymn #376 – **Joyful, joyful, we adore thee**

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, Form IV 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

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

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

