

**Church of the Divine Love**  
**SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 9**

**JULY 4, 2021**

**9:00 A.M.**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn **#671 – Amazing Grace! how sweet the sound**

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: **Ezekiel 2:1-5**

Psalm 123

Second Lesson: **2 Corinthians 12:2-10**

Gradual Hymn **#636 – How firm a foundation**

Gospel: **Mark 6:1-13**

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 – **#528 – Lord, you give the great commission**

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 page 364

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn #657 – Love divine, all love excelling

Post Communion Prayer

page 366

Prayer of St. Francis

page 833

Dismissal Hymn #718 – God of our fathers

Dismissal

### **Sermon Sunday July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

Ezekiel 2: 1-5; Psalm 123 or 48; 2 Corinthians 12: 2-10; Mark 6: 1-13

**In the name of the living and liberating God, the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen!**

Today our nation celebrates Independence Day, which commemorates the day that the 13 original colonies joined together to declare their independence from Great Britain. In fact, the first time we were ever referred to as the “United States of America” was in the Declaration of Independence, which was accepted by the leadership of the 13 colonies on July 4, 1776. July 3, we were a collection of colonies. July 4, we were the United States of America. That’s why we call July 4 the birthday of our nation. So, I hope you take some time to recognize and give God thanks for the blessings we enjoy as a nation. Happy Independence Day!

The Gospel is always proclaimed by flawed mortals otherwise it would never be proclaimed at all. The Gospel is also always heard by flawed mortals otherwise it would never be heard. Our Gospel lesson for today is a powerful commentary on the wisdom of that statement. The Gospel reading from Mark consists of two distinct sections. The first part of the reading describes Jesus’ visit to his hometown, Nazareth. Mark follows this account with the story of Jesus sending his disciples out two by two into the countryside of Galilee to spread the good news of the coming of God’s Kingdom.

Hometowns, we all have one. Some of the best things about hometowns are the comfort, familiarity, and stability they offer. Hometowns should be that place where everyone knows you. Often, however, they are the place where people only know about you. I mean only God knows who you really are. Don’t care about the opinion of other people about you, they don’t really know you. Jesus has returned to his hometown. Mark puts it like this, “Jesus left that place and came to his hometown” (Mk. 6:1).

The first thing we need to recognize is that this is more than just a physical movement from one location to another. “That place” and “hometown” are not so much geographical locations as they are archetypes and symbols of ways in which we see and understand Jesus, ways in which we either recognize or fail to recognize him. “That place” is not simply a physical location. It is the place of miracles, the place where Christ calmed the sea, freed the Gerasene demoniac of his demons, healed the hemorrhaging woman, and raised to life the dead daughter of Jairus (Mk. 4:35-5:43). “That place” is the place of transcendence, the place that dazzles and impresses us. It seems easy to trust the Jesus of “that place.” After all we can point to evidence and results. Our prayers sometimes demonstrate an almost exclusive understanding of Jesus in terms of “that place” as we pray for cancer to be healed, an addiction to be broken, behavior to be changed, a marriage to be fixed, or even a parking place to appear. I sometimes wonder if we prefer Jesus to stay in “that place.” But he does not. He comes to the hometown.

“Hometown” is not simply a city. It refers to more than Nazareth. If “that place” is the place of transcendence, then “hometown” is the place of immanence and intimate presence. “Hometown” is the place of excessive familiarity, comfort, and stability. It is the place where life is ordinary, routine, and mundane. One day is like another and nothing much ever changes. “Hometown” is, as Jesus experiences, the place where everyone knows your name and all about you. But they do not necessarily know you. It is the place in which everyone is so close they can become closed. So, the town’s people can say to Jesus, “We know all about you. You are the carpenter, Mary’s son. And by the way we know all about Mary and that angel story! We know your brothers, and your sisters are right here with us.” They are right. They know all about him. But they do not know him. And Jesus is amazed at their unbelief. I cannot help but wonder if he is not also amazed at their unbelief in themselves. In some way our rejection of or failure to recognize Christ is a rejection of ourselves and a failure to recognize our true self.

Surely God’s holy one cannot come from our very midst, a carpenter, the son of Mary, someone just like us. Surely that which is holiest and closest to God cannot coincide with that which is most familiar and closest to us. Those assumptions are wrong. Despite our failure to recognize Jesus and our denials that God is with us, that God is in us, and that God is among us Christ continues to show up in our “hometown.” It seems that the most difficult place for God to reveal God’s self is in that which is closest and most familiar to us, in the “hometown.” We all have our Nazareth’s, our hometowns. They are our attitudes, beliefs, prejudices, patterns of thinking, habits of behavior, and ways of seeing and relating to God, each other, and ourselves. All these things help make life predictable, safe, familiar, and comfortable. There is nothing necessarily wrong with these things. But they can and often do lead to blindness, deaf ears, closed minds, and hardened hearts.

The tragedy of life in Nazareth, the “hometown,” is that we can easily lose that sense of mystery, wonder, awe, and sacredness not only in the people and events with which we are closest and most familiar but also in ourselves. We have become too comfortable, too familiar, and too secure and we are often unable to recognize the Christ who is standing with us and among us. Christ is always coming into our “hometown” speaking words of wisdom, doing deeds of power, and offering more than we can imagine. So maybe we should stop looking for him in “that place” out there somewhere and look in the people, relationships, events, and circumstance of life that are closest to us, that occupy our time, and demand our attention.

So, I wonder, if you were to change something about your “hometown,” something that would help you see Christ standing in the midst of wherever and everywhere you are what would it be? So let us strive to be a people who hear and live the message of Jesus. We have been richly blessed with stories and rituals that affirm our lives. We have been given a special promise in our Baptism and a meal that renews us. Let us join with that holy gathering of witnesses and live into the Good News Our Lord came to proclaim. **Amen.**

6 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

7 PENTECOST

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

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

## **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**

Vera & Jose

Francisco Febres

Arlene Goodenough

Charlotte H.

Frances & Donna Mongelli

Bernie Walther

Nathan Treadwell

James

John Loubengeiger

Kim

Chris Dickson

Mo (Rachael)

Michael Echevarria

Warren

Del

Bill Conklin

Michael & Family

Anthony Paribello

Martinisi Family

Edward Lent & Family

Lois Kessler

Kate Jones

Kathleen

Barbara Curran

Girard Bishop

Irene

Children who are ill:

Christopher and his family

Franklin Tenesaca

Ciara

Aidan

Gabriel

Elodie