

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Proper 23

October 10, 2021 | 9:00 am

The Annunciation of Our Lady Episcopal Church 5725 Stearns School Road, Gurnee, Illinois (847) 336-3730 | annunciationgurnee.org

Welcome to Annunciation

Before Worship

We ask that conversations and greetings before the worship service happen in the Narthex. We try to keep the Nave as a space for prayer and contemplation as we enter into worship.

What's Happening

The Parish News is your guide to everything happening in our parish. The bulletin contains everything you need to fully participate in the service. Some of the music we will sing can be found in either the Red or Blue hymnal in your pew.

Communion

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Communion.

Hospitality

After the service, please enjoy good food, coffee, and conversation in the Parish Hall.

Let's Get Connected!

We want to get to know you better and tell you more about our community. Please fill in a Newcomer Card, available at the Communications Center near the main entrance.

Children

We welcome children to participate fully, and we do not expect them to be perfectly quiet. If your child needs a break, feel free to bring them to the Narthex (lobby) or make use of our Nursery: take a left as you exit the worship space, down the hall.

Restrooms

The main restrooms are off the Parish Hall, to your right as you exit the worship space. A gender-neutral restroom is located to your left as you exit the worship space, down the hall.

Wheelchair Accommodations

There are wheelchair-friendly spaces in the pews, on the outside aisles. Accessible restroom stalls are in the main restrooms off the Parish Hall, to your right as you exit the worship space.

Hearing Assistance

Hearing devices are located on the table near the main entrance. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Online Worship

To facilitate everyone being able to hear during the service, everyone will be muted on Zoom, except for the person speaking.

Please close all other applications on the device you are using. If you are having connection issues, try turning off the video. You will still be able to hear the service.

Streaming to Facebook Live

If you weren't able to join us for our live service, the video will be available at:

https://www.facebook.com/annunciationgurnee/live/

You do not have to have a Facebook account to view the video.

The Sanctuary candle is given for the Glory of God.

Please ask an usher or worship leader for assistance with anything you need.

In-person, indoor worship

• If you are not feeling well, please stay home.

- Everyone, regardless of vaccination status, must wear a mask inside the building.
- Please maintain good physical distancing when in the building.
- A limited number of bulletins will be available, please consider bringing a printed copy or a mobile device.
- This morning you are welcome to sing the hymns.
- You are invited to share the Peace with one another this morning. Please be respectful of the community members who may not want to pass a physical peace.
- There will be a collection plate at the entrance of the Nave for your offering.
- You are welcome to be in the parking lot and stream the service one of the clergy will bring you communion at the end of the service. You are welcome to use the Annunciation WiFi (AnnunciationOfOurLady Guest).
- Healing prayers will be in the chapel during the distribution of Holy Communion. Please make your way there if you desire personal prayers with a prayer minister. At this time we are unable to offer anointing.

Holy Eucharist:

• This morning we will be celebrating Holy Eucharist. At the invitation to Communion, please come forward to the altar, either one "pod" together or one individual at a time, and receive the wafer. Take a cup and after you have consumed the wine, put it in the glass container by the lectern. Then make your way back to your seat or to the chapel for healing prayers.

The Liturgy of the Word

Organ Prelude





Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) Music: Hyfrydol, Rowland Hugh Prichard (1811-1887)

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

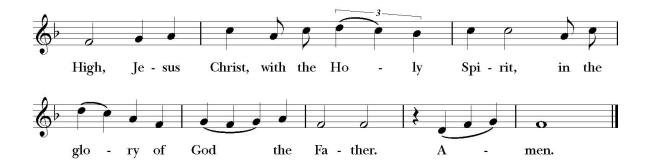
Collect for Purity

Celebrant and People, say together

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Glory to God #S-280





Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: Let us hear what God's Spirit is saying to God's people.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

(Job 23:1-9, 16-17)

Reader: A reading in which we hear Job's bitter complaint.

Job said:

"Today also my complaint is bitter; his hand is heavy despite my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find him, that I might come even to his dwelling!

I would lay my case before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.

I would learn what he would answer me, and understand what he would say to me.

Would he contend with me in the greatness of his power? No; but he would give heed to me.

There an upright person could reason with him, and I should be acquitted forever by my judge.

"If I go forward, he is not there; or backward, I cannot perceive him; on the left he hides, and I cannot behold him; I turn to the right, but I cannot see him. God has made my heart faint; the Almighty has terrified me;

If only I could vanish in darkness, and thick darkness would cover my face!"

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Psalm (22:1-15)

Reader: Let us hear the psalmist's plea for deliverance from suffering and hostility and

offer the psalm by whole verse.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? * and are so far from my cry and from the words of my distress?

O my God, I cry in the daytime, but you do not answer; * by night as well, but I find no rest.

Yet you are the Holy One, * enthroned upon the praises of Israel.

Our ancestors put their trust in you; * they trusted, and you delivered them.

They cried out to you and were delivered;* they trusted in you and were not put to shame.

But as for me, I am a worm and no man, * scorned by all and despised by the people.

All who see me laugh me to scorn; * they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,

"He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him;*
let him rescue him, if he delights in him."

Yet you are he who took me out of the womb, * and kept me safe upon my mother's breast.

I have been entrusted to you ever since I was born; * you were my God when I was still in my mother's womb.

Be not far from me, for trouble is near, * and there is none to help.

Many young bulls encircle me; * strong bulls of Bashan surround me.

They open wide their jaws at me, * like a ravening and a roaring lion.

I am poured out like water; all my bones are out of joint; * my heart within my breast is melting wax.

My mouth is dried out like a pot-sherd; my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;* and you have laid me in the dust of the grave.

The Second Lesson

(Hebrews 4:12-16)

Reader:

Here the author illustrates the rest God promises through Jesus the Great High Priest and Word of God.

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



The Gospel (Mark 10:17-31)

Celebrant:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: Celebrant: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go,

sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

An Affirmation of Faith

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant and People, say together.

You, O God, are supreme and holy. You create our world and give us life. Your purpose overarches everything we do. You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.
You came to us before we came to you.
You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,

who lived and died and rose again. You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit. You empower us to be your gospel in the world. You reconcile and heal; you overcame death.

You are our God. We worship you.

You are our Goa. we worsnip you. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Book of Common Prayer, Form III

The New Zealand Prayer Book

Leader Gracious God, we pray for your holy Catholic Church; this morning we remember Fort Dauphin in the Diocese of Toliara, Madagascar and the Church of the Province of West Africa.

People That we all may be one.

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; including Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Paula our Bishop-elect, Chilton our Assisting Bishop, Pastor Jenni, Deacon Linda, and Rev Jane.

People That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People That our works may find favor in your sight.

Leader Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

People That they may be delivered from their distress.

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest. This morning we pray especially for *Patsy*

Von Rooy (10/15/20)

People Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

Leader: For those weighted down by despair, suffering from addiction, or burdened by illness, that they may experience the freedom which the Spirit gives to the Children of God. This morning we pray especially for Bishop-elect Paula; Bishop Samy; Andrew; Josianne; Pam; Fritz; Garry; Ronia, Fernandez, Clarita and Bein; Ashley; Brendan, Kate, and Joseph; Herman; Rob; Greg, Joe, Helene; Marsha; John; Cindy; Noah; Charlie; Logan; Tom; Debbie; Jenny; Linda and Ralph; Susan and Dave; and the people served by Sunrise Assisted Living and PADS.

Leader: For all those who serve in the Armed Forces, including Liam Mellen, Chad

VanHorn, Christopher Pavy, Nick Unda, Ian Pocklington, Ethan Pocklington, Christopher Froelich, Karl Mohrmann, Trish Hull, Clay Anderson, and Quinton

Hocking, let us pray to the Lord.

Leader: O God, our times are in your hand: look with favor, we pray, on your servants *Pam* Herbert (10/14) and *Tom* Crafton (10/16) as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in you all the days of their lives.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace

and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

The Peace A Wee Worship Book, 4th ed.

Celebrant: Not an easy peace,

not an insignificant peace, not a half-hearted peace,

but the peace of the Lord Jesus Christ

is here with us now.

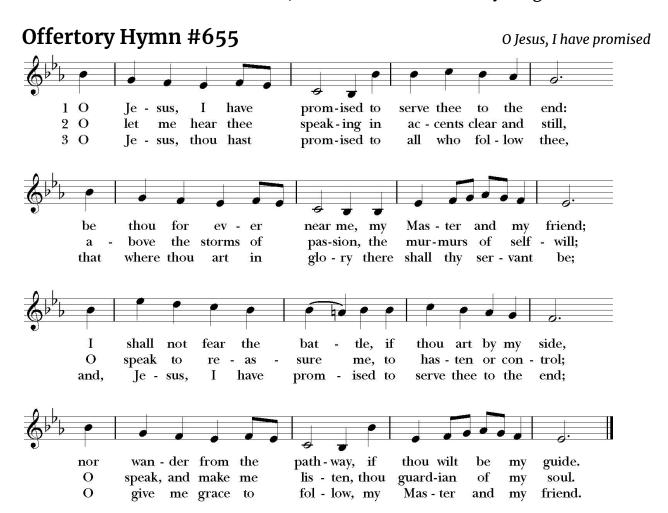
People: Let us share it with each other.

After you have greeted others, please have a seat.

Offertory

Celebrant:

If you are offering your gift at the altar, and there remember that your sibling has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first to be reconciled to them, and then come and offer your gift.



Words: John Ernest Bode (1816-1874), alt. Music: Nyland, Finnish folk melody; adapt. and harm. David Evans (1874-1948) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Presentation Hymn | Doxology

Please stand, as able, and sing:



The Holy Communion

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider:

The Lord be with you.

People:

And also with you.

Presider:

Lift up your hearts.

People:

We lift them to the Lord.

Presider:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

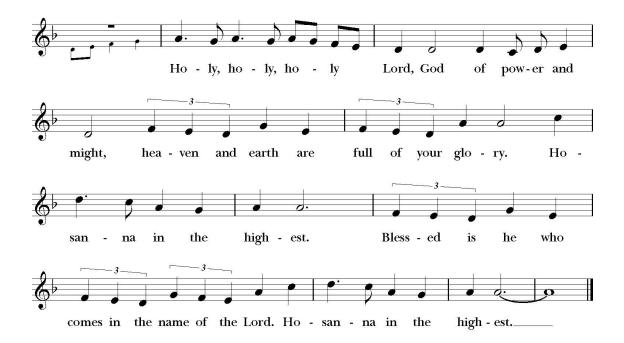
People:

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in Jesus Christ our Lord you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your kingdom, and

given us the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Book of Common Prayer: Prayer A



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity constancy, and peace; and at the

in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

People: AMEN!

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now as our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

People: Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: These are the gifts of God and we are the people of God. Take them in

remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith

with thanksgiving.

Receiving Communion

You're Invited: This is Jesus' table; he made no restrictions, and neither do we.

Host: Our communion is by wafer. The priest will place the wafer in your hand.

Wine: Take a cup and after you have consumed the wine, put it in the glass container by

the lectern. You also may abstain from receiving the wine.

Gluten: Gluten-free wafers are available. Ask the priest for one when you come up.

Healing prayers will be offered in the chapel during the distribution of Holy Communion. Please make your way to the prayer station after receiving communion, if you desire personal prayers with a prayer minister. At this time we are unable to offer anointing.

Sending of the Eucharistic Visitors

The Deacon sends parishioners to bring Communion and companionship to the sick and homebound. This morning, parishioners will lead the service at Sunrise Assisted Living Center.

Communion Meditation Music Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you

with gladness and singleness of heart;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of God's Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be with you and

remain with you always.

People: Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

Closing Hymn #484

Be thou my visionr



Words: Irish, ca. 700; versified Mary Elizabeth Byrne (1880-1931); tr. Eleanor H. Hull (1860-1935), alt. Copyright © by permission of the Estate of Eleanor Hull and Chatto & Windus Ltd. Music: Slane, Irish ballad melody; adaapt. The Church Hymnary, 1927; harm. David Evans (1874-1948) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Organ Postlude

Ministers of the service

Crucifer Charles O'Morchoe

1st Reader &

Psalm Bob Coates

2nd Reader Susan O'Morchoe Prayers Debbie Rakestraw

Ushers Andy Hucker and Debbie Rakestraw

Digital Verger Mike Robison

Sunrise Minister

Altar Guild Pam Myers Healing Minister Ruth Chatlien

Staff & Leadership

Rector

Rev. Jenni Liem rector@annunciationgurnee.org

Deacon

Rev. Linda Lutter

lindalutter@hotmail.com

Interim Director of Music

Kay Sutton

kaysutton@comcast.net

Assistant Director of Music

Betsy Donegan

Wardens

David Fulton and Debbie Rakestraw

Vestry

John Anderson, Virginia Bosserman, Jennifer Edwards, Phil Fabry, Carl Gruber, Jami Haines, Ruth Hull Chatlien, Mike Robison Clerk of the Vestry

Bob Coates

Treasurer

Elizabeth Nemeth

treasurer@annunciationgurnee.org



Annunciation of Our Lady

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Annunciation is a place...

To be included

To be honest

To be challenged

To be empowered

To find hope

Thank You



Today's coffee hour hosts:

Barb McNeill and Deb Gallinger

Parish Announcements and Calendar

All Saints Sunday

We will celebrate All Saints Sunday on October 31, 2021. As is our custom, you are invited to remember the saints of your life and offer their names for reading in the Prayers of the People. Email Pastor Jenni

(<u>rector@annunciationgurnee.org</u>) with names and pronunciation guide before 10/28/21.

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We

ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

Cub Scout Popcorn Sale



Run.... don't walk!
Time is running out to take advantage of this opportunity.
Cub Scouts from our own Pack 1627 will be in the narthex selling popcorn on October 10,

before and after the 9:00 mass.

Popcorn products will be available for immediate delivery, no ordering or waiting necessary. This is the Pack's primary fundraiser for the coming program year.

One of our parishioners purchased it recently and stated, "The Cheese and Caramel popcorn is out of this world."

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

Need for Check Writers

Do you have a couple of free hours during the week? We are looking for a few extra helping hands who would be willing to come to the office and be a check writer for the parish. It would involve some computer work, which we will train you on, and then being on a rota until we hire a new administrator to take over that vital office job.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jenni!



QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer

October 28, 2021 7:00-9:00pm

QPR is an internationally recognized suicide prevention program designed to help you

have a conversation with someone having thoughts of suicide. You will be trained to recognize suicide warning signs, approach someone who may be at risk, persuade the person to seek appropriate services, and connect the person to resources that will help. Similar to CPR, QPR is intended to educate and empower ALL people to make a positive and effective difference in the life of someone in a mental health crisis, no matter your background or experience. Attend this workshop and learn how to support your family, friends and colleagues in need by effectively employing the three steps of QPR: Question, Persuade, Refer. Please reach out to Becky De Rosa with any questions at

rebeccad@warrentownship.net



Calling all Singers!

Adult Choir rehearses after service this morning. After the service, stop by coffee hour and then come by the choir room for a short 'welcome back' rehearsal. We will be rehearsing every Sunday after church for the next few months. During this COVID-time we will be singing in church on the Sundays of All Saints, Christ the King, Advent 1,2,3,4 and of course, Christmas Eve. It will be great! Bring a friend, too!

Wednesday Book Study

The Wednesday Morning Book Study is taking this coming week off and will start back on October 20th at 10:00am in the Adult Forum Room. We will be studying the book of Esther using the Beth Moore bible study of the same name.

We will need a count of how many books to purchase. If you are intending to join the study please let Miriam Berry, Deb Gallinger, or Pastor Jenni know by 10/17 so we can order you a book.

For the first session, please read Esther Chapter 1.

Hospitality Corner

There are always people who will jump right in!!! For the past two weeks I have been asking for someone to host coffee hour this Sunday, October 10, because I would not be in church. Barb McNeill and Deb Gallinger answered the call.

Unfortunately, Deb and Stan will be travelling back to New York for a funeral but they will leave treats for Barb to serve. It is quite difficult for one person to host so please, someone, help Barb serve and clean up afterwards. Without her there would have been no coffee hour. My heartfelt thanks to Barb and Deb for helping me out.

We are set for hosts for the next few weeks and I thank you all so very much. Now, can we have some more people sign up using the link below. It is not hard to do, just different than it was. Were you there for the celebration of Megan Dailey's becoming a US citizen? The group that put that coffee hour on did a fantastic job. Thank you to all of you; you made Megan's day, I could tell.

We will be having some special coffee hours in November and December which have already been taken so there will be some fun ones coming.

For questions on how to use the coffee maker or other concerns, please see Miriam Berry.

Thank you so much, all you who have signed up. You are terrific.

Want to sign up, use the link in the Parish News or go to:

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e4fadaf2 8a57-annunciation

Miriam Berry



Holiday Wreaths and Poinsettias

It's never too early to be thinking about decorating for the holidays.

Troop 627B and 1627G

Annual Wreaths and Poinsettias sale will be coming soon. Watch this space for more information!

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

People:

Gracious God, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I believe that you are present in the Bread and Wine of the Holy Sacrament. And since I cannot now receive you in the Sacrament, I ask you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let me never be separated from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.



Save the Dates

October 18 Vestry | 6:30pm 19 Cub Scouts | 6:00pm Scouts | 7:00pm 20 Wednesday Morning Book Study

|10:00am - Esther Prayer Shawl Ministry |7:00-8:30pm

26 Scouts | 7:00pm 27 Wednesday Morning Book Study

|10:00am | 28 | QPR Training |7:00-9:00pm

31 All Saints Sunday

Fall Stewardship Drive begins

November

3 7 8 10	Wednesday Morning Book Study 10:00 Daylight Savings Ends Worship Committee 7:00pm Wednesday Morning Book Study 10:00	19 24 25	Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00-8:30pm Advent Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve 4:00 pm Christmas Day 10:00am
14 15 17	Finance Committee 7:00pm Fall Pledge In-gathering Vestry 6:30pm Wednesday Morning Book Study 10:00	January 2022 13 17 30	Finance Committee 7:00pm Vestry Meeting 6:30pm Annual Meeting
20 21 24 25 28	Prayer Shawl Ministry 7:00-8:30pm Dioscean Convention Christ the King Sunday Greening of the Church for Advent UTO In-gathering Wednesday Morning Book Study 10:00 Thanksgiving Day Service 10:00am 1st Sunday of Advent	Today Tuesday Wednesday Saturday Morning Pray	k's Calendar Sunday Worship 9:00am Scouts 7:00pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00pm Buildings and Grounds 9:00am yer meets Monday through Friday at
December 1 5 8	Wednesday Morning Book Study 10:00 Cookie Walk & St Nicholas' Sunday Wednesday Morning Book Study 10:00 Wednesday Morning Book Study 10:00	8:30 in our Zoom Room - please see the website or Parish News for the link. The Office will be open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 9:30-4:00.	



I used to chafe at the passage of the rich ruler. It seemed impossible, or dare I say, unfair to be asked what seemed impossible – to let go of all possessions to inherit eternal life.

Because at first reading, the story of the rich ruler, found in Mark 10:17-21, seemed to be a manual on how to earn a spot in heaven - that is, to follow the commandments and provide everything you have for the poor.

But not quite. Even if you could follow all the commandments and give everything to the poor, it would still be impossible to *earn* a spot in heaven. Why? Because it's not yours to earn – it's God's to give.

You can never earn heaven, salvation, eternal life, or God's love. And thank God for that as it frees you from trying to achieve this impossibility. Instead, you can let go of the burden of earning God's love and *accept* the love God has freely given – no strings attached. As a friend of mine said, "We are generous receivers first – every good thing is a gift from God. If you pretend that it is all your stuff or yours to control it makes it harder to share."

It's worth highlighting too, that, "Jesus, looking at him, loved him" (Mark 10:21). Jesus' response to the rich ruler was not to shame but to love him. Jesus tells the rich ruler to leave his possessions **first for his benefit**, saying, "you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."



What areas in your life or possessions do you find hard to share with others or give to God?

Do you sometimes find yourself trying to earn your spot in heaven?

How do you accept God's love

– is it easy or do you have to
work at it?

Jesus is pointing out that you suffer when you let possessions or the work to obtain possessions cut you off from what matters – family and friends as well as your relationship with God. You cannot try harder to be good. You can, however, accept God's love and follow Jesus. If you do this, you can learn to trust God for your needs, and you don't need to hold tight to your possessions for security.

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