

Church of the divine love

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

FEBRUARY 16, 2025 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn –

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Jeremiah 17:5-10**

Psalm 1

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 15:12-20**

Gradual Hymn –

Gospel: **Luke 6:17-26**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (on insert)

The 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 –

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer C page 369

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 367

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn –

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer For the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn –

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday February 16, 2025

Jeremiah 17: 5-10; Psalm 1; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20; Luke 6: 17-26.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

Today's gospel doesn't align well with the values of a capitalist society, our constitutional right to "the pursuit of happiness," or our personal programs for happiness. It's a hard gospel to hear for anyone who has been taught or come to believe that happiness is the primary goal in life.

It's interesting that in the prayers of the people we pray for the poor, the hungry, the persecuted, and

yet, Jesus says they are blessed. What about those to whom Jesus says, “Woe to you?” Why don’t we pray for them? If we took to heart today’s gospel, shouldn’t we pray for them? I wonder if we don’t pray for them because they look and sound happy and for most of us happiness is the goal. I wonder if we don’t pray like that because we don’t want to face those aspects in our own lives. What if, however, the goal of life is not happiness but meaning? What if the gospel of Christ is not just another program for happiness? And what if blessings and woes are guideposts for living a life of meaning?

I am not suggesting that Jesus and the gospel are opposed to our happiness. I am suggesting that there is something deeper and more lasting than happiness. Happiness is circumstantial, happenstance, dependent upon what is or is not happening. We’ve all experienced that. One day we are happy and another day we are not. Circumstances change. Isn’t that what today’s gospel saying? Those who are hungry will be filled and those who are full will be hungry. Those who are laughing will weep and those who are weeping will laugh. That’s true in each of our lives about each of the blessings and each of the woes. Jesus is describing the pattern of our lives. Think how often we cycle back and forth between days of blessing and days of woe. Go down the list of blessings and woes and you’ll find every one of them in your life: poverty, hunger, weeping, to be spoken ill of, richness, fullness, laughing, and to be spoken well of.

Jesus promises blessings when we are empty, weak, or grieving, whether spiritually, emotionally, or materially, not because there is any inherent value or goodness in poverty or misery but because our heart is softened, our eyes are open, and we desire something more. In those times we know there has to be something other than the values and objects of this world to rule our lives, provide meaning, and establish identity. And we’re right. In those moments Jesus says, yes, blessed are you. It’s easy and tempting to set blessings and woes in opposition, to see one as better and more desirable than the other, and to wonder which category we fall into. Jesus is not, however, establishing a hierarchy between blessings and woes. Luke makes a point of telling us that Jesus stood on a level place when he spoke about blessings and woes. Jesus is leveling the ups and downs of our lives. He’s inviting us to look beyond the circumstances that happen day to day and find meaning in every day.

And let’s not forget that today’s gospel happens in the context of healing. “A great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people ... had come to hear Jesus and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured.” Maybe that context of healing is the context in which we need to hear and understand the blessings and woes. What if blessings are not a reward and woes are not a punishment? What if blessings and woes are not categories of two different kinds of people? What if there are aspects in each of our lives to which Jesus says, “Blessed are you?” What if there are aspects in each of our lives to which Jesus says, “Woe to you?” And what if both are said with a desire for our wholeness and intended for our healing? The blessings and woes are not a conclusion made or a status given by Jesus. They are insights about our lives for us to consider, lenses through which to see ourselves and understand our lives.

Look at the poverty, hunger, and weeping in your life today. Look at the richness, fullness, and laughing in your life today. Listen to what others are saying about you. The question isn't, which one of those am I? The question is, in what ways are all of those a part of my life and what do they mean for me today? We live in a world that often glorifies wealth, success, and social status. This passage challenges us to rethink what we consider a blessing. Are we placing our trust in material possessions, or are we seeking the values of the Kingdom? Like Jesus, we are called to serve and uplift the marginalized in our communities. How can we provide for the poor, comfort those who mourn, and advocate for justice? When facing hardship or persecution, let us remember that we are part of a greater story—the story of God's Kingdom. Our struggles mold us into compassionate followers of Christ who can empathize with the suffering of others.

What are the blessings and woes telling or showing you? In what ways do they enlarge and enliven your life, and in what ways do they narrow and constrict your life? Do they align with and support the values you claim to hold and the life you want to live, or do they impede and contradict the life you want to live and the way you want to be? What are they asking of you? In what ways might they be energizing, obstructing, or redirecting your life? How are they affecting your relationships? What are they pointing to that needs your attention and work today? The answers to those questions and a thousand others like them are insights that open our eyes and heart to a life of meaning and wholeness. They are insights that help us discern the life that wants to enter the world through us. But it takes more than insight. We also need courage to live a life of meaning in the world, and the endurance to do so in the face of opposition from others as well as ourselves. That's difficult and often painful work, and it asks a lot of us. Is it worth the effort? Well, listen to what today's gospel says: Power came out from Jesus and healed all of them.

Let us be reminded that the Kingdom of God flips worldly values upside down. The true Beatitudes declare a different kind of blessing—a blessing rooted in humility, a deep sense of need for God, a call to justice, and a promise of hope. May we embody these values in our lives, leaning not on our own understanding but finding our identity in Christ. Let us pray for the strength to live out these principles, transforming our hearts and communities through love and service. **Amen.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

6 EPIPHANY

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY (held in the room across from the office)
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
7 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Anthony Giordano
Coffee Hour	Giordanos	Dana Kenn

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Jane Alva Quallo	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art

Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Lynette
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Vincent & Barbara	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Joseph	Annie
Jerry & Family	Shannon & Family	Donna A.
Christopher	Oitice Family	Kristen

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email

Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

A Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, I stand ready to receive Your wisdom and guidance. In each decision, big or small, lead me to discern your will and to act accordingly. Help me to understand the depth of Your wisdom, finding guidance in Your word and through prayer. Teach me to be patient as I wait for Your direction, trusting that Your timing is perfect. May I navigate this day with the assurance that Your wisdom is a treasure far greater than any earthly knowledge. Guide my thoughts and actions, that they may be a reflection of Your discernment and love. In Your guidance, I find the path to a life of purpose and peace.

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

