

Church of the Divine Love

**FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 9**

JULY 6, 2025 9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 66:10-14**

Psalms 66:1-8

Second Lesson: **Galatians 6:(1-6), 7-16**

Gospel: **Luke 10:1-11, 16-20**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze – printed on insert

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The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

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Sermon Sunday July 6, 2025

Isaiah 66:10-14; Psalm 66:1-8; Galatians 6:1-6,7-16; Luke 10:1-11,16-20

Esteem sisters and brothers in Christ, do you want peace for yourself, your friends and family, the world? How do we begin to find that kind of peace in the midst of tragedy after tragedy? Ukraine, Iran, Palestine, Gazar. The peace we seek is not conditioned on a change in the other's behavior but a change in our own hearts. "Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house.'"

If these events have left us heartbroken and weeping imagine what God must be seeing and feeling; God, the Creator who entrusts us with his creation, with one another's lives, and with his own life. Today the Creator and the created once again stand together weeping and brokenhearted. I no longer see these tragedies as problems to be fixed or behaviors to be corrected. That approach hasn't gotten us very far. Rather, I view them as symptoms pointing to a deeper issue. Until we are willing to deal with the deeper issue things aren't likely to change, and the deeper issue is the human heart. Whether by a terrorist attack, through prejudice and discrimination against a minority group, in our political campaigns, or in our personal relationships, the violence and mistreatment we perpetrate on each other arise first from an inner violence that poisons and fragments the human heart. We need a change of heart. We need a heart at peace.

I can't help but ask, where is the peace of God today? I think that's a question many are asking. It's a question I suspect God might also be asking. While we wrestle with this question let's not project our failings and human imperfections onto God, waiting for and expecting God to fill the void and fix the problems. This is not about God's failings or imperfections. It is ours and the blood of the victims, the tears of the mourners, and the pain of the world are crying and begging for a different answer. Let's not give the same old answers. Let's not use the same old excuses. Let's not offer the same old solutions. Let's not meet the world with the same old beliefs. Instead, let's number ourselves among the seventy sent to every town and place where Christ himself goes. Let's enter every house, first saying, "Peace to this house." Let's become people with hearts at peace, not at war. Isn't that what you want for yourself? For your children and grandchildren? For your family and friends? For the world? I do. That's what I want. I think we all do. But I think we also struggle with what peace means, what it looks like, and how we attain and keep it. If the events of today's world offer us anything it's the opportunity to rethink what peace means and reorient our hearts.

So let me ask you this. What does peace mean to you? What comes to mind when you think of peace? What does it look like? What shape does it take? Now let me ask you this. Are you willing to let go of that understanding of peace? Are you willing to change your understanding and consider something else? Are you willing to pay the price for peace? I am not asking about our willingness to risk the lives of our military men and women or increase the military's budget. We've already proven our willingness to do that. I am asking about our willingness, yours and mine, to change our understanding and practice of peace. Here's why I asked that second set of questions. I think most of us have an understanding of peace that is too small and too narrow. We limit peace to a particular set of behaviors and usually they are the behaviors we expect or want from the other person. We think of peace as an ideal to be attained and more often than not we define it as the absence or elimination of conflict. We've convinced ourselves that peace will come when this person or that group changes or stops doing something. Ultimately, we condition peace on our ability to change or control another. We let them determine whether our hearts are at peace or at war. That's craziness and it doesn't work.

The reality is that we don't have the power to change another. And when we do it is not peace, we achieve but more violence. There is a reason so many of us feel powerless in the midst of our world's tragedies. We are powerless. We have no control to change another. The only person over whom we have any power or ability to change is ourselves. You and I are each responsible for choosing whether we live with a heart at peace or a heart at war. Jesus did not send the seventy out to change the towns and places they would go but to simply offer his

peace. How often does Jesus instruct us to go and change other people? He doesn't. That may be our way but it's not his way. Jesus does, however, spend a lot of time teaching us to change ourselves and our way of being toward another. That's the change of heart that is at the core of peace. The struggle for peace begins not between me and another but within myself. So, let's consider what a heart at peace might look like.

What if a heart at peace is about loving our neighbor as ourselves? It would mean that the other person, regardless of who she or he is, counts and matters as much as we do. A heart at peace refuses to lump masses of unknown people into lifeless categories such as Republican, Democrat, conservative, liberal, Muslim, and make them objects to be dealt with or enemies to be defeated. A heart at peace encounters everyone as a person. It looks another in the face and recognizes itself. So, tell me, what do you see when you look in the face of another? What if a heart at peace is about loving our enemies, doing good to those who hate us, turning the other cheek, giving our shirt to the one who has taken our coat, and doing to others as we would have them do to us? If that's about peace I have to wonder whether I really want peace and whether I am willing to pay the price. Some days my answer is yes and other days not so much. What about you? What if a heart at peace means being merciful and not judging, refusing to throw the first stone or for that matter the last stone or any in between, and taking care of the log in my own eye rather than the speck in the eye of another? What if a heart at peace offers forgiveness not seven times but seventy times seven. Are we willing to do that? What if a heart at peace means feeding the hungry, giving drink to the thirsty, clothing the naked, and visiting the sick and imprisoned? Before we can ever do that, we must first regard the life, needs, and desires of another as important as our own. What if a heart at peace means choosing not to become and act like a wolf when we stand in the midst of wolves? It means we must refuse to betray ourselves and refuse to horribly others.

All these "what ifs" about peace are not so much prescribing behaviors as they are describing ways of being. Peace does not begin with our behaviors toward each other but with our way of being toward each other, our seeing each other as human beings created in the image and likeness of God. Our behavior toward one another will be determined by our way of being toward one another. It is a matter of the heart, your heart and my heart. If our hearts are at war, it makes no difference how polite or nice we are to each other. Violence is present. Offering the peace of Christ is more than a friendly handshake, a warm hug, or a how are you? It's good to see you. It's the recognition of another's existence and his or her value as a human being, regardless of whether he or she is family, friend, stranger, or enemy. When Jesus sent out the seventy, he did not condition their offers of peace on who the recipients might be, their

worthiness, what they had done, or what their response might be. Neither can we condition our offers of peace. Some will receive the peace and others will not. Either way, “the kingdom of God has come near” if our hearts are at peace.

The peace of Christ is not defined by the absence of conflict and it is not an ideal to be attained. It is a practice to be lived every moment of every day of our lives, a continual setting of our faces to go to Jerusalem. That means practicing peace with our friends and family. It means practicing peace with our enemies. It means practicing peace with the stranger, with those who are different from us, and with those who scare us. Let’s not forget that when Jesus sent the seventy, they went without a purse, bag, or sandals. Now don’t literalize that. It’s a metaphor for the baggage we carry, the baggage that continues to trip us up and deny us a heart at peace. It is the baggage of our past experiences, fears and wounds, grudges and resentments, pre-judgments and assumptions about others, old solutions and beliefs, our need to be right or better than the other, and sometimes our desire to play the victim.

Be at peace with yourself, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Be at peace with another, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Be at peace with all of creation, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Be at peace with God, for the kingdom of heaven has come near. Peace be with you today, tomorrow, and always. Peace be with you. AMEN.

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

4 PENTECOST - PROPER 9

9:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY

8:00 PM AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

FRIDAY

7:00 PM IMPROV GROUP

SATURDAY

10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

5 PENTECOST - PROPER 10

9:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
 COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Roe Prosser
Coffee Hour	Nolans	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:

Barbara Curran	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Roccoo	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Shannon & Family	Vincent & Barbara	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Kristen	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Timothy Treasure	Donna A.	Aika
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	James
Donald Edwards	David Leone	

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 the 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 forever. Amen

