

Church of the Divine Love
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 28
NOVEMBER 16, 2025 10:15 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: **Malachi 4:1-2a** *(page 831 in the Bible)*

Psalm 98 page 727

Second Lesson: **2 Thessalonians 3:6-13** *(page 1033 in the Bible)*

Gospel: **Luke 21:5-19** *(page 915 in the Bible)*

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

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Confession page 393

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus page 362

The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
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Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday November 16, 2025

Isaiah 65: 17-25; Psalm 98; 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13; Luke 21: 5-19.

Beloved in Christ,

We may not like it, we may deny it, we may resist it but the reality is things are changing. Our world is changing, the church is changing, our lives are changing. Sometimes changes are welcome. But there are days when change brings loss or the fear of loss. There are days when our life is forever changed, the world is different, and nothing is like it used to be. You and I know those days. We could each tell stories about those days. They are stories about the death of a loved one, the diagnosis, a divorce, the business that failed, the job that was lost. They are stories about the day you realized the life you were living was not the life you wanted, the day someone confronted you with your addiction, the day you became the parent and caretaker to your own parent. They are stories of dreams and hopes that never came true.

These are the days when the temples of our life and world fall. It is not just our individual temples, however. As a community we are having to face the reality that our life is changing. Enrollment and income are down. It cannot continue like it is and it will never be like it used to be. The temple of our life is falling. For many people the Episcopal Church is not the church they remember. It is not like it used to be when they were growing up. Things have changed. For them the temple is falling. As a country the temple of our economic system is in ruins. We can no longer count on investments that will grow every year. The job market is unstable. Globally we read of wars, plagues, famines. Nations have risen against nation, kingdom against kingdom, even religion against religion. Security, peace, and diplomacy have given way to fear, violence, and terrorism. Temples are falling everywhere. We all have temples. Some

have been given to us, others we have built for ourselves. Sometimes our temples are people, places, values and beliefs, institutions, dreams. Regardless, they are the things that we think structure and order our lives, give meaning and identity, provide security and stability. At least we think they do, until they fall.

In today's gospel some were speaking about the temple, its beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God. It is what structured their community. It gave identity and meaning. It was the center of Jewish life. Jesus looks at it and says, "The days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." Jesus is speaking about more than just the physical temple in Jerusalem. The Jerusalem temple includes every temple you and I have. So, what do we do on the day our temple falls? Change has a way of pushing us into the future. Many people will begin looking for signs about the future. What will happen now? What do I do? How do I get through this? If we are not careful, we will soon be living in a future we do not yet have. We will be living in a future created in our heads. That is not Jesus' response. When Jesus describes things that will happen, he is not asking us to speculate about the future. He is offering signs that call us to be faithful in the present.

Sometimes, after our temple falls, we look for a scapegoat, someone to blame or even demonize. So, we blame Moslems for violence in the world and gay people for the conflict within the Episcopal Church. Democrats and republicans blame each other as do the conservatives and the liberals. We look for someone or a group who does not think, act, or believe like we do. That is not Jesus' response. Some people will simply give up and walk away in despair. They can see nothing left. All is lost and the situation is hopeless. That is not Jesus' response. Some will become angry, resentful, and fight back. Others will say this is God's will or maybe even God's punishment. Many will look for easy answers, quick fixes, something that will prop us the old structures and ways of doing things. Again, these are not Jesus' response. Jesus' response is just the opposite. Be still, be quiet, do not be led astray. Do not allow your life to be controlled or determined by fear. Do not listen to the many voices that would cause you to run and go after them. Endure he says. Be faithful, steadfast, persevere here and now. Jesus is calling us to be present and faithful in whatever circumstances we find ourselves. If we cannot find God here, in our present circumstances, even in the midst of our temple ruins, we will find God nowhere.

The place of fallen temples is the place in which God, speaking through the prophet Isaiah, declares: "I am about to create new heavens and new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it or the cry of distress" (**Isaiah 65:17-19**). Those promises are fulfilled through our endurance. By endurance we gain our lives, our souls. Jesus is calling us to the virtue of stability. We are to remain fully present, faithful, no matter how uncomfortable life may be. In so doing we discover that God has always been with us – in the changes, chances, and chaos of life; in the pain, loss, and

disappointment; in the destruction of our temples. Endurance, perseverance, stability are the ways in which we offer God the fallen stones of our temples. Stone by stone God rebuilds our life. Stone by stone God restores the original beauty of our life and world. Stone by stone a new temple arises from the rubble. Stone by stone we become the temple of God. We no longer have temples. We no longer need them. We are the temple. That is the story that needs to be told. That is our opportunity to testify.

We can all tell the story of the day our temple was destroyed. Too often, however, we believe and live as if that is the end of the story. It will be if we run away, scapegoat, respond with anger, or try to put it back together like it used to be. But it does not have to be the end of the story. The greater story is how we discovered God next to us in the temple ruins and how, stone by stone, God rebuilt what we could not. It is the ongoing story of God recreating life out of loss and ruin, a story of God rejoicing and delighting in his people.

This story is the holy gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to you. It is real, sacred, and true. Trust that story, tell it over and over to yourself, proclaim it to all you see, and then go live that story. The world's false temples are falling, but the living Temple, Christ within us, is rising. So, take courage, beloved. Do not be afraid of the shaking. For it is the sound of resurrection. "Sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the rivers clap their hands; let the hills sing for joy at the presence of the Lord, for He is coming to judge the earth." And in that judgment, there is joy. In that fire, there is healing. In that end, there is the beginning of the world made new. **Amen!**

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

23 PENTECOST - PROPER 28	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	6:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

24 PENTECOST - PROPER 29

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

Last day to bring in Christmas shoe boxes.

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Prossers	Nolans

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	Martin
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Roccoo	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Bobby
Scottie Credendino	Michael	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste

Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Jonathan	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Jan
Shannon & Family	Vincent & Barbara	Sandy
Mary & Family	Wendy	James
Gladys Hadija	Sophia	Aidan
Michael & Family	Brooke & Kylee	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Timothy Treasure	Donna A.	Aika
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	Jay

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 for ever. Amen