

Church of the Divine Love
TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 15
AUGUST 17, 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: **Jeremiah 23:23-29**

Psalm 82

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 11:29 - 12:2**

Gospel: **Luke 12:49-56**

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 August 17, 2025

Jeremiah 23: 23-29; Psalm 82; Hebrews 11:29-12:2; Luke 12:49-56.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, how is Texas? How many of you have been asked that question? I have. I suspect it's a conversation we've all had whether about Texas or another situation. It's the obvious and natural thing to talk about after any kind of tragedy, trauma, or loss. That conversation takes place within families, among friends, between concerned citizens, helpers and those in need, leaders and constituents.

When it comes to Texas most of the time what I say and hear others saying is a description of what is happening. There's deep grief and sadness. There's a lot of anger and mistrust. There is conflict and division. And there is a huge outpouring of prayer, compassion, love, and support. And while all that may be true and accurate, Jesus is clear and direct with the crowds in today's gospel (Luke 12:49-56) that description is not enough. "You hypocrites!" he says. "You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?" It is not enough to simply describe what is happening. We must interpret and discern what is going on in what is happening. Jesus says to the crowd, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so, it happens." Do you hear the description and interpretation in that? Jesus continues, "And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens." Again, there is description and interpretation.

You and I are being asked to be good interpreters of the present time. The interpretation we give the present time has direct consequences for the immediate future. Some interpretations open ways for

healing and unity. Others leave us stuck in business as usual repeating the same old cycles of past pain and violence. Let's not be like the crowds in today's gospel reacting correctly to nature but remaining passive in the face of what has happened. One of my biggest concerns for Texas is that we will get through this but nothing will change. We'll look around us and do the necessary things: money will be distributed, needs will be met, counseling and mental health resources will be provided, a new school and maybe a recreational center for kids will be built; but nothing will change. If that happens it will be because we refused to interpret the present time and do the next right thing. Please do not misunderstand me. I support those things and I want them to happen but I don't want us to stop there. I don't want us to just look around at what is happening. I want us to look deeply at what's going on.

I worry that we will scapegoat and punish a few individuals and consider the case closed, but nothing will change. I'm not saying there should not be accountability for mistakes or wrongdoing. I just don't want that to be the end of the story. I want us to be good interpreters of the present time. How are you interpreting the present time? What do you see going on in what has happened and is happening? Interpretation doesn't mean getting to the one right answer or explanation. It's more about transformation than information. It's about discovering meaning and finding options for healing and moving forward. It's about addressing the dis-ease and not just the symptoms. We have for too long assumed that people are the problem rather than recognizing that the problem is the problem. We'd rather blame individuals than take responsibility for addressing the problem or look at the ways in which the problem benefits us or particular interests. The availability of guns and the prevalence of gun violence continue to be an American epidemic. We are killing and wounding each other daily. Much of the anger and mistrust we are experiencing today isn't new but was already here before all the incidents. It's been simmering in an ongoing history of racism. We know people can lose themselves and go down a dark road. We know the patterns of what that looks like but too often we label them as weird or evil and write them off. The people we ask to give of themselves and work for the welfare and benefit of our community and life together are often undervalued, underpaid, and under-resourced. We have a hard time being present to and holding the pain of others. We're not very good about loving our neighbor as ourselves. We often prefer to worship Jesus rather than follow and emulate, or let him change us.

God knows we already have more than enough division on the earth. We do not need any more. We are divided socially, racially, economically, politically, religiously not only in our own country but throughout the world. There is division in marriages and families, in the workplace, in our schools. This is not, however, the division that Jesus brings. The division that we read about in the paper and watch on the news is not Jesus' doing. We humans have caused those divisions by our choices of relationships that ultimately determine who we are and how we act. We have made bad choices. Getting our life turned around means learning how to interpret the present time and choose again. It means choosing the Father as the one primary relationship that finally determines who we are and what we do. If we choose

the Father as that one relationship then it means our parents, children, spouses, or friends do not determine who we are. It means that our jobs, our country, our politics, our possessions do not create our identity. God does. Those relationships do not necessarily have to end. Rather, they exist within the context our relationship with the Father. There will be new dynamics, new priorities, and new divisions. To choose the Father will bring about division. Jesus said it would. It is not, however, a division that kills, oppresses, or separates. The division Jesus offers is about growth. He is growing us up into the fullness of life and holiness. Regardless of our age we are always in the process of growing up. Growing up is difficult and often painful work. Division is the way of life and growth.

Discerning the present time may just be some of the most important and life-giving work we can do for Texas, one another, and those who come after us. And just as it's not enough to only describe what is happening, neither it is enough to just interpret what is going on. Every interpretation asks something of us and calls for us to respond. This is not someone else's work to do. This is your and my work. Immediately after today's gospel Jesus asks the crowds another question: "Why do you not judge for yourselves what is right? No one else can do our work for us. We must discern for ourselves. Are you letting others judge for you? In what ways have you outsourced your discernment to others: news reports, politicians, law-enforcement, social media, gossip, pundits, conspiracy theorists? In what ways has your discernment been co-opted by fear, prejudice, indifference, personal interest, or political agendas? What would it take to reclaim and accept your responsibility to discern and judge what is right? How are you interpreting the present time? What do you see going on in what has happened and is happening? Look deeply and judge for yourself what is right. And then tell me, how will you, a follower of Christ and a citizen of Texas, respond? May God grant us the courage to follow him, and bring the peace that comes from a Velvet Sword. Thanks be to God. **Amen.**

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

10 PENTECOST - PROPER 15	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

SATURDAY

10AM-2PM

THRIFT SHOP

11 PENTECOST - PROPER 16

9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

Today

Next Week

Eucharistic Minister

Anthony Giordano

Roe Prosser

Coffee Hour

Prossers

Jess Berbeck

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

Donald Edwards

Robert Hosey

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
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Brooke & Kylee	Mo
Michelle & Family	Christopher	Annie
Timothy Treasure	Donna A.	Aika
Moises Parra	Misael Varas	Kristen

Scottie Credendino

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

