

**Church of the Divine Love**

**EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**PROPER 13**

**AUGUST 3, 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: **Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-23**

Psalm 49:1-11

Second Lesson: **Colossians 3:1-11**

Gospel: **Luke 12:13-21**

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 3, 2025

Ecclesiastes 1:2,12-14;2:18-23; Psalm 49:1-11; Colossians 3:1-11; Luke 12:13-21.

**Sisters and brothers in Christ**, this very night your life is being demanded of you. "What is demanding and taking your life today?

That's the question I want to begin with. It's the question that runs through what I am about to say to you. And I hope it's the question you will take with you when you leave here today. It is a central question not just in today's gospel (**Luke 12:13-21**) but in each of our lives. What is demanding and taking your life today? Let me be clear about what I am asking. I'm not asking about your physical health or illnesses. And I'm not asking about the end of our lives, when or how we might die. I'm asking about something bigger and more important than that. I'm talking about the way our life can ebb away from us. Have you ever felt like your life was ebbing away, receding, diminishing? Have you ever felt like the tide of your life was going out?

Sometimes we experience that ebbing away in our relationships with our spouse, our children, a friend, even God. Sometimes we experience it as the absence of meaning, purpose, or direction in our life. Sometimes we feel it in regard to ourselves when we are not living the life we want to live or being the person, we want or know ourselves to truly be. Sometimes we experience it as an absence of

enthusiasm and vitality, and we're just going through the motions. Life is on autopilot. Sometimes it's feeling like we're trapped in the life we've created for ourselves. We might finally have what we want only to find we don't really want what we have. Sometimes there's nothing really wrong or bad about our life but there's a restlessness and sense that something is missing. Sometimes it feels like we are the rat in a race for nothing more than another piece of cheese.

A few weeks ago, a young man said to me, "I'm starting to add color back to my life." He had recognized that his life was ebbing away. In what ways might your life be ebbing away today? I think that's what is happening to the rich farmer in Jesus' parable. He is storing up and storing up and storing up without any attention to or awareness of what really gives life, and his life is ebbing away. The great danger and tragedy of an ebbing away life is that it reaches a tipping point, a point beyond which we cannot right the ship, a point at which our life is demanded and taken. "You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you," God says to the rich farmer. Some will hear or read these words as God demanding the man's life. But that's not what the text says. It simply says, "Your life is being demanded of you." So, here's what I wonder. What if God is not the one making a demand on the man? What if the demanding of the man's life is neither God's judgment nor punishment? What if God is simply naming what happens when we store up and store up and store up without any attention to or awareness of what really gives life? What if and this is a key one, what if the stored-up grain and goods are demanding the man's life?

Here's why I ask that. The Greek words that have been translated as "is being demanded" can also and more literally be translated as "they are demanding." "You fool! This very night they are demanding your life from you." The grains and goods he has stored up are demanding his life. We are to be a people of gifts willing to offer ourselves to one another. When I really give anyone my time, I thereby give him the last and most personal thing that I have to give at all, namely myself." How beautiful it is to offer ourselves to those around us, to those in need, and to those who need to feel the love of God through us. What we store up eventually demands and takes our life. It doesn't matter what it is. It could be anger, grudges, resentment. It could be guilt or regrets. It could be pride or arrogance. It could be a need for approval, attention, or recognition. It could be perfectionism, the need to be right, the need to have the final word. It could be criticism, condemnation, or judgment of others or ourselves. It could be fear, worry, anxiety. It could be money, possessions, wealth. It could be power, position, or control. It could be success, reputation, or winning.

The list goes on and on. What else would you add to this list? Whatever we store up for ourselves eventually demands and takes our life – emotionally, spiritually, and sometimes physically. Think about a time your stored up anger or resentment and the way it began to eat away at your life. Think about a time when you stored up judgment or condemnation of yourself or another and how it eventually stole your life. Think about the way stored up fear or worry takes away your life. If our life is ebbing away maybe it's time to look at what we are storing up. And it's not only about us as individuals. I am afraid

our life as a nation is ebbing away – more mass shootings, tribalism, white supremacy, lack of decency in our conversations, deepening divisions and ongoing accusations. What are we as a nation storing up? We were not created to live storing up lives or to be storing up people. That simply is not the way or teaching of Jesus. And when you pray say, “Give us each day our daily bread.” Not bread for a week, a month, or a lifetime, but bread for a day. In the wilderness the Israelites were to gather only enough manna for one day. They were not to store up for the next day. (**Exodus 16:13-21**)

Storing up is about more than just quantity. It is a way of being, a way of living only for ourselves, a way of distancing and cutting off from others. When we store up, life becomes all about us. Listen to the man’s conversation with himself. Eleven times he uses the words I or my. There is no mention of or care or concern for anyone but himself. His storing up has blinded him to what really matters and what life really consists of. Life does not consist of what we store up. The things of life that hold the deepest meaning, value, and purpose – love, compassion, mercy, forgiveness, justice – cannot be stored up. They can only be given away. That’s what we see in the life of Jesus. No one and nothing demanded or took his life. It was not a stored-up life. It was a life given to others, for others.

Before us this morning the table has been prepared. Like our call to share ourselves with others, God desires to share this meal with us. We are invited to receive these gifts without any merit on our part but because God loves us. God has not kept his grace stored up in a barn for eternity, but out of God’s abundant love it has been presented to us in the death of his only begotten Son and the gifts of bread and wine. Who are we to be? We are to be disciples of Jesus Christ, willing to share with others the gifts that God has given to each one of us. We can give back to the good God who first gave us life through our tithes and offering, we can give back by serving those in need, we can give back by sharing the love of God with others, we can give back by offering prayers for our enemies. We are not called to keep the riches of our lives kept away for our own selfish enjoyment; instead, we are called to be a people who are rich toward God. **Amen.**

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

8 PENTECOST - PROPER 13

9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY

8:00 PM

AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY

FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

7:00 PM

AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
FRIDAY	7:00 PM	IMPROV GROUP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP

#### 9 PENTECOST - PROPER 14

9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
	COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
10:00 AM	VESTRY MEETING

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Anthony Giordano	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Giordanos	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	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	Martin	Sandy

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](mailto: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





