

Church of the Divine Love
FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
MAY 11, 2025 10:15 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #460 -**Alleluia! sing to Jesus**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Acts 9:36-43**

Psalm 23

Second Lesson: **Revelation 7:9-17**

Gradual Hymn #412 - **Earth and all stars**

Gospel: **John 10:22-30**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

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

Offertory Hymn #343 - **Shepherd of souls**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer B page 367

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn #492 - **Sing, ye faithful**

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace (on insert)

Prayer for the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn - **Man on the Middle Cross** (on insert)

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday May 11, 2025

Acts 9: 36-43; Psalm 23; Revelations 7:9-17; John 10: 22-30.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, “how long will you keep us in suspense?” The religious leaders ask Jesus in today’s gospel. I suspect we’ve all had times of suspense in our lives and we’ve all asked that question, whether of Jesus or someone else.

As we celebrate Mother's Day, let us honor and uplift all mothers, grandmothers, and mother figures in our lives. Let us express our love, our gratitude for the nurturing care that mothers provide unconditionally and appreciation for their immeasurable contributions and their enduring impact on our lives. They face life’s trials with courage and resilience, serving as a beacon of hope and inspiration. May we strive to embody the same love, sacrifice, strength, and

nurturing spirit that define the essence of motherhood. In doing so, we honor the heart of motherhood and pay tribute to the timeless bond between a mother and her child. May God bless all mothers and grant them love, joy, and peace on this special day and always. Happy Mother's Day to our noble mothers.

Sometimes we experience suspense as a time of excited waiting and expectation. It's the suspense of receiving and opening a gift, the suspense of going on a trip, the suspense of a grandchild's birth. That's not the kind of suspense we hear about in today's gospel and it's not the kind of suspense I'm talking about. I'm talking about the other kind of suspense: the suspense of waiting for something to happen and the uncertainty about what is next, times when we are doubtful or undecided, circumstances that leave us anxious or apprehensive about what will or will not happen. They are times of ambiguity and not knowing. We feel ungrounded and untethered. Our life is suspended, on hold, in limbo. When have you experienced that kind of suspense? What parts of your life are in suspense today? Is it about your marriage, your children, another relationship? Maybe the suspense is about a decision or a conversation you are facing. Maybe it's about making a difficult or painful change. Maybe it's about your faith, vocation, work, money, health, grief and loss, or your future. What is suspending your life today?

Regardless of how it comes about I think suspense is ultimately a spiritual condition. It's more about what's going on within us than what's going on around us. And yet most of us deal with the circumstances rather than ourselves. We seek an exterior solution for an inner discomfort, and that rarely works. We grasp for facts and reason. We want information, answers, and straight talk. That's what the religious leaders want in today's gospel. "If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly," they say to Jesus. That's not the first or the last time he will hear "if you are." It's throughout the gospels. It begins with his temptations in the wilderness and ends with his crucifixion: "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread" (Mt 4:3 ; "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from the pinnacle of the temple" (Mt. 4:6; "If you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us" (Mk. 9:22); "Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God" (Mt. 26:63); "If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Mt. 27:40); "If you are the Messiah, tell us" (Lk 22:67); "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself" (Lk 23:37)! "If you are" is in all four gospels. It's in my life too, and maybe it's in yours. I've said and thought those words, haven't you? Sometimes I still do. "If you are." If you are wise and all knowing... If you are powerful... If you are merciful... If you are loving... If you are good... If you are compassionate... If you are generous... If you are forgiving... If you are caring and concerned.

Every “if you are” statement I make says more about me than it does Jesus. It points to what’s going on within me. It’s about my suspense and wanting to be rescued from the discomfort. It’s about who I want and need Jesus to be. It’s about my projections onto and expectations of him. I want Jesus to declare and prove himself to me in ways that fit my image and understanding of who I think he should be. When I am in suspense, I’d rather Jesus belong to me than me belong to Jesus. That’s the issue for Jesus in today’s gospel. “You do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep,” Jesus says. That’s not the way we often think about believing and belonging. We tend to give priority to believing. We think right beliefs lead to belonging. That’s not, however, what Jesus says. Believing is not the prerequisite to belonging, it’s the consequence of belonging. And that makes all our “if you are” statements moot. Jesus rarely offers us information about himself. Instead, he invites us into an experience of himself. He shows himself to us rather than telling us about himself. What if Jesus had said to the religious authorities in today’s gospel, “Let me clarify this once and for all. I am the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one?” What if he responded to each of our “if you are” statements the way we want? We might have the information, the answer, but then what? Would we be satisfied with that? Would it transform or change our lives or make a difference?

I’m not sure it would. Maybe what’s in our head doesn’t matter as much as where our heart is. I remember a particular time of intense suspense in my life. I was looking for answers and wanting information to explain and make sense of what was happening. One morning I was at breakfast with my friend Felix and I told him about my suspense and what I wanted to know. He said to me, “And what would you do with that information if you had it? What difference would it make? You still have to decide how you will live your life and then go live it.” That’s what I hear when Jesus says, “My works testify to me.” He’s shown us who he is in changing water into wine; cleansing the temple; feeding five thousand with five loaves and two fish; enabling a lame man to stand up, take his mat, and walk; forgiving the woman caught in adultery; giving sight to the man blind from birth; raising Lazarus from the dead. And at Easter, he shows us that life comes out of death. What would it mean for you and me to belong to the works of Jesus? And what would that take? What are those works offering you and me in our suspense today? And what are they asking of us?

I wonder what it would be like to let go of our “if you are” statements to Jesus and start saying to ourselves, “If I am...” If I am hearing his voice... If I am known by him... If I am following him... If I am given eternal life... If I am imperishable... If I am uncatchable from his hand... As long as we fail to consecrate ourselves, our life and heart, all that we are and all that we have, we will

stand there saying, “Tell us plainly, are you the Messiah or are you just another foreigner that needs to be thrown out of our temple? Jesus’ response is always the same. “I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my father’s name testify to me; but you do not believe because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me.”

Jesus is not excluding anyone. We do that to ourselves. If we do not belong it is only because we do not hear as evidenced by the request, “Tell us plainly.” Tell us plainly is more a statement about our hearing and listening than it is about Jesus’ words and speaking. The uncomfortable faith to which Jesus calls us is nothing less than God’s own life, eternal life, right here, right now, in this world, in your life and in my life. It is a quality of life that never perishes. It makes us the uncatchable people of God. **Amen.**

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

4 EASTER	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
		HAPPY MOTHERS DAY

MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	NO BIBLE STUDY	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
5 EASTER	10:15 AM	PROANAPHORA, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Roe Prosser	No EM
Coffee Hour	Dana Kenn	Erika Febres

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	Art
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
Sally & Roger	Vincent & Barbara	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Sophia
Michael & Family	Kristen	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Christopher	Annie

Jerry & Family

Shannon & Family

Donna A.

Moises Parra

Misael Varas

Joseph

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

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us to speak word 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 forever. Amen

