

Church of the Divine Love
NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 24
OCTOBER 19, 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: **Genesis 32:22-31** *(page 28 in the Bible)*

Psalm 121 *(page 536 in the Bible)*

Second Lesson: **2 Timothy 3:14 - 4:5** *(page 1039 in the Bible)*

Gospel: **Luke 18:1-8** *(page 28 in the Bible)*

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

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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

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The Communion of the People	
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Sermon Sunday October 19, 2025

Genesis 32:22-31; Psalm 121; 2 Timothy 3: 14-4:5; Luke 18:1-8.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, in today's fast-paced, noisy world, finding a moment of silence is a rare and precious commodity. But what happens when silence is forced upon us? What should we do when we are met with unanswered prayers or feel like God is not hearing us? In these moments, knowing how to respond and what to do can be challenging.

In Luke 18, the parable of the Persistent Widow offers insights into how we can approach times when we feel unheard or like our prayers are going unanswered. Through the story of a woman who encounters an indifferent judge but continues to press her case through persistence, we can learn valuable lessons about perseverance and faith. In this Gospel, Jesus emphasizes the importance of persistence, particularly in prayer, even in times of perceived silence. **In Luke 18:1–8**, Jesus tells the story of a persistent widow who seeks justice from an unjust judge. Despite initially being unwilling, the judge ultimately grants the widow's request due to her persistence. Jesus then asks if God, who is just, will not also swiftly give justice to those who persistently cry out to Him.

Have you ever found yourself repeatedly praying for God to remind you of His love, assure you that He hasn't left, and let you know He hears your prayers? Do you feel like, despite your best effort, all you feel is silence? How do you react to this? The truth is, there is an ever-present pull to give up, to lose heart, and to forsake the gospel of Jesus. This is the charge that Jesus addresses at the very beginning of this passage, and it's something we cannot ignore. We need to recognize and address this reality as people of God. We must acknowledge that sometimes there is no answer to our problems, and we need a place to lament. We are not truly living out our message if we cannot be that place for each other. Jesus draws our attention to the fact that the widow in the parable is of the most marginalized in society. She has

sons or safety net, and her testimony is not admissible in court. Yet, she goes directly to the judge. Her situation is something can resonate with all of us: feeling like no one is listening, no one understands us, and no one cares about what's happening to us. Being in prolonged seasons like this can make us feel like we're on unsteady ground.

Standing before the unjust judge life seems big, powerful, and overwhelming. You feel small, powerless, and alone. There is no one to defend or represent you. You stand by yourself unsure what to believe about life or yourself. No matter what you do or say nothing changes, nothing works. You don't know what else to do so, like the widow in Jesus' parable, day after day you cry out. That is the widow's story in today's parable, in today's world, sometimes even in our own life. Have you ever felt like that? Have you ever stood before the unjust judge? So, what do we do when we stand before the unjust judge? What do we do when we see another human being standing before the unjust judge? Some will get angry and fight back becoming as hardened and unjust as the judge himself. Some will give up and believe what the unjust judge says, believing that is the final reality of life and it will never get better. Others will blame and accuse God of being the unjust judge. There are a few, however, who will discover and trust the widow's faith.

"Pray always and do not lose heart," Jesus says. That is the widow's faith. Day after day she shows up. Day after day she speaks of the injustice done to her. Day after day she holds her pain before the judge, the world, and God. To pray always does not mean giving God a to do list and then sitting back expecting God to magically fix everything. To pray always means that we offer our cry to God and then we do whatever we can to bring about the change we seek trusting that God also is already doing what God needs to do. Maybe that means we seek counseling or a support group. We feed the hungry. We offer compassion to the grieving. We speak and teach against hatred and prejudice, respecting the dignity of every human being. We strive for justice and peace. We make our case not just before God but with God. We join God in answering our prayer.

Some believe that prayer is about convincing, cajoling, persuading, or wearing down God so God will do what we ask. It is the idea that God is out there somewhere and not here, that God is either unaware or uncaring about us and this world. So, we have to persuade God to show up and act. That only happens if we are good enough, believe the right things, and say the right words enough times. That is not what it means to pray always. If that is what we have been taught or come to believe this parable says otherwise. Jesus rejects that understanding of the relationship between God and his people. God is nothing like the unjust judge. God sees our suffering. God hears our cries. God quickly grants justice. But when? The widow's faith always involves waiting. How long? When will it change? I don't know. But I do know that waiting does not mean God is absent. Waiting does not mean God is uncaring. Waiting does not mean God is not already active. You see, the widow does not wait on God. She waits with God. To pray always is what keeps her from losing heart. It keeps her showing up day after day trusting that God sees, hears, and acts.

To pray always is what keeps us, in thought, word, and deed, present to and in relationship with God so that when God does act, we will be there. Imagine the tragedy if one day the widow gave up. She just could not stand another day of crying out, pointing to the injustice of her life, holding her pain for the world to see, so she didn't and that was the day the judge ruled, that was the day life changed. I wonder how much of God's life, love, compassion, forgiveness, healing we have missed because we did not show up. To pray always is what insures we are present so that when the Son of Man comes, he will find faith on earth. He will find us, the widows of the world who refused to let the unjust judge have the final say. When you pray for healing, it's not just about the physical ailment, but also a longing for a day when sin, death, and sickness no longer exist. Although you may feel like God is silent, you are not abandoned or forsaken. Jesus' resurrection proves that God is powerful and loves you. Let Him reorient your view of His silence and stick to the solid ground of His constant presence. If you're struggling and feeling alone, come to Jesus and discover His resurrection power and the hope He offers. You also have a community of people who are willing to support you and help you carry your burdens.

To live the widow's faith may be some of the most difficult and necessary work we do. Pray always and do not lose heart. Jesus does not ask us to do what we cannot do. He does not ask to go where he has not already been. He has lived the widow's faith. He is the archetypal widow. The widow's life and faith, his life and faith, have been given to us. It is already deep within each of us. You already have all that you need to face the unjust judge of this world. So go live like the widows God knows you to be. So be persistent, and don't stop pressing into Jesus. **Amen.**

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

19 PENTECOST - PROPER 234	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

20 PENTECOST - PROPER 25	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
	11:15 AM	VESTRY MEETING

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Erika Febres	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	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	Michael	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 forever. Amen

