

Church of the Divine Love

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 20

SEPTEMBER 21, 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: **Amos 8:4-7**

Psalm 113

Second Lesson: **1 Timothy 2:1-7**

Gospel: **Luke 16:1-13**

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

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The Communion of the People	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
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Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday September 21, 2025

Amos 8: 4-7; Psalm 113; 1 Timothy 2:1-7; Luke 16: 1-13.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, nobody wants to be known as a squanderer but that is exactly what this parable calls us to become. We are to become squanderers of the riches entrusted to us. I know that does not make much sense given the advice most of us have grown up with but that is how parables work. They take the status quo and challenge us to see and live in a new and different way.

That is the challenge set before the rich man in today's parable. He entrusted to another man the care of his riches. This other man was a manager, a caretaker, a steward for the rich man. Every day he chose what he would do with those riches; how he would care for and use them, where and with whom he would invest them. Every day he chose to squander those riches. He scattered, spread, and poured out the riches entrusted to him. That was not what the rich man expected or wanted. That's just not what you do with your riches. One day the rich man had had enough. Charges were brought against the manager. "What is this I hear of you? Give me an accounting," he demanded.

Like the rich man we know better. We've been counseled to make wise investments. We are to save for a rainy day, to not let that money burn a hole in our pocket, and to not spend it all in one place. We should consider the risk versus the potential return. We weigh the costs and benefits when deciding how to use our riches. Whether our riches are monetary or non-

monetary the last thing we want to do is squander them or, even worse, have someone else squander them. Today's gospel calls us to account for our management of all that we are and all that we have. The demand for an accounting often sounds like someone is in trouble. That's how today's parable begins. The manager has been charged with squandering his master's property. He going to be fired. He will lose his job, income, reputation, and status. A part of him is dying. At some level he will lose his life as he now knows it.

The truth is that every one of us has been entrusted with riches. Money is probably the first one we think of but it is not the only one. Our time, presence, and relationships are riches all of us have. Faith and the Church are riches. Ideas, skills and talents are riches. Love, mercy, compassion, and, forgiveness is among our riches. Who and how much will we love? When and under what conditions do we offer mercy and forgiveness? On whom and how will we spend our money and our time? Every day we decide how we will use our riches, what we will do with them, who will receive them and from whom they will be withheld.

The Old Testament reading, **Amos 8:4–7**, the prophet confronts those who exploit the poor for profit, even while observing religious rituals. They prioritize personal gain over sacred days and engage in dishonest practices, such as cheating with scales and enslaving the poor. Amos delivers God's message, exposing their hypocrisy and warning that their actions are not forgotten. The passage serves as a reminder that silence in the face of injustice can perpetuate oppression. God's judgment is a promise that every deed is remembered. This message calls believers to live a faith that extends beyond worship, actively seeking justice and righteousness in the world. The rich man in us wants to protect and grow our riches. That is what we have been taught. There is nothing necessarily wrong with this but there is a danger. The danger is that our riches become ends in themselves, power to be wielded and idols to be worshipped, rather than the means to restore life, create new possibilities, and reconcile relationships.

The rich man protects and withholds but the manager squanders. Even when he has been caught and is in trouble he continues to squander. He calls in the master's debtors and begins to forgive debts. "How much do you owe my master?" he asks. And then he instructs them to reduce the amount. He offers release and freedom from an obligation that could never be repaid. He gives them the opportunity for a new life. He reconciles them and the rich man with a new relationship. That sounds an awful lot like what God is doing in the world. That looks an awful lot like Jesus in the gospel stories. Even after charges have been brought, an accounting

demanded, and he about to be fired the manager's actions never changed. It is the rich man who changes. He now praises the manager. The rich man aligns himself with and approves of the squanderer and of the squandering. From the beginning of this parable to its end the manager is a squanderer. The manager does this not because of who the debtors are but because of who he is. Our God is the ultimate squanderer.

While the master may have wanted an audit of past numbers and transactions the manager saw that his old life was empty, bankrupt. New life would be seen only by looking forward. New life would be found only by being and doing differently. The manager claimed for himself the grace hidden in his master's demand for an accounting, and he was commended. If the dishonest manager can be commended, why not me? Why not you? God is always scattering and spreading, squandering, all that he is and all that he has into the lives of his people. That never ends. Every day God squanders the riches of his life on us. We are called to do the same, to become squanderers. We squander in order to be like God.

Squander love on God, your neighbor, your enemies, and yourself. Squander forgiveness and reconciliation on those who have hurt and betrayed you. Squander your prayers for everyone everywhere. Squander compassion on the poor, the sick, the oppressed. Squander your money on those in need and those who work for justice, peace, and human dignity. Squander your life and riches on the world. Hold nothing back. You cannot serve God and wealth. Go live a life well squandered. After all that's what Jesus did. **Amen!**

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

15 PENTECOST - PROPER 20	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

16 PENTECOST - PROPER 21

10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

Today

Next Week

Eucharistic Minister

Anthony Giordano

Deb Giordano

Coffee Hour

Janet Croft

Giordanos

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 for ever. Amen

