

Church of the Divine Love
NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AUGUST 10, 2025 9:00 AM
HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

A Morning Prayer – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn #

Opening Acclamation page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Genesis 15:1-6**

Psalm 33:12-22

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

Gradual Hymn #

Gospel: **Luke 12:32-40**

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

Offertory Hymn #

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 #

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace (on insert)

Prayer for the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn #

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday August 10, 2025

Genesis 15:1-6; Psalm 33:12-22; Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16; Luke 12: 32-40.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, have you ever received a gift and had no idea what it was or what you were supposed to do with it?

I wonder if that's what happens to us when we hear Jesus say, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." We're not quite sure what it is. We often don't know what to make of the kingdom or what to do with it. Is Jesus talking about royalty, wealth, palaces, and power? For many of us those are the images that come up when we think about a kingdom. That's what a kingdom often looks like in movies and history books. Is he talking about heaven? Is the kingdom a reward in the next life for being good, having faith, and believing in this life? If so, then is this life nothing more than an installment payment to secure a future place in heaven? Is the kingdom security, safety, and guaranteed outcomes? After all, Jesus prefaces the giving of the kingdom by saying, "Do not be afraid." I wish that were the kingdom but security, safety, and guaranteed outcomes have not always been my experience of life. What about you?

We pray weekly, if not daily, for the kingdom to come on earth. What are we praying for? What comes to mind when you think of or pray for the kingdom? My guess is that most of us think of the kingdom as something to be possessed: a reward from God, a perfect life in which we have everything we want and everything goes our way, an ideal world. But what if it's not? What if the kingdom is not something to be possessed or had but a different way of being? And here's why I ask that. Right after Jesus says, "It is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom," he tells us to sell our possessions and give alms, and to make purses that do not wear out. He talks about thieves that do not come near and moths that do not destroy. I don't think those are prescriptions or prerequisites for getting the kingdom. Rather, they are descriptions of what the kingdom life is like. So let me ask you this. What's the best way to keep a purse from wearing out? Don't put anything in it. What's the best way to keep a thief away? Don't have anything worth stealing. What's the best way to keep moths from destroying? Don't have anything that can be destroyed.

So, what if the kingdom is a non-possessive life? A life in which we sell our possessions and give alms, a life in which our purses are empty, a life in which there is nothing to steal or destroy. I want us to be careful that we don't literalize the text. Jesus is using metaphor, calling us into a new way of seeing and living. I am not suggesting we all need to be poor, go without, or be lacking. And I don't think Jesus is saying we shouldn't own or have anything. In and of itself there is nothing virtuous about poverty, lack, or insufficiency. The world does not need more poor people. What the world needs is people who are not possessed by their possessions, people who live a non-possessive life, kingdom people. Jesus is offering another vision of life, a kingdom vision. He is calling into question a possessive way of life. The kingdom is not a different place, a reward, or a thing to be had. It is a different way of being, living, and relating. The kingdom is not a where or a what but a how.

When I live a possessive life, I am more focused on me than we, more passionate about my rights than my responsibilities, and more concerned about being right than doing what's right. I worry about the thief that steals and the moth that destroys. I fear not only not having enough but that I am not enough. I am always striving for more: more money, more stuff, more status, more success, more control, even more of God. Does any of that sound familiar? Resonate with your life? We see it every day in the news. It's what lies behind our conflicts and divisions. And if we are honest, we can see it in our lives too. We are possessive people, concerned about keeping what we have and getting what we don't have. We not only possess but are possessed by what we possess whether they are things, beliefs, opinions, status, or power.

Have you ever felt like you were possessed by your work, your success, your house, or the stuff you own? Do you ever feel like you spend more time and energy creating or maintaining your life than living it? Have you ever felt possessed by your position, another's approval, the need to be right, the need to win or be in control? And if so, what did it cost you? What did you lose? Is that how you really want to live? Is that how you want your children or grandchildren to live? Have you ever been concerned about

who was moving into your neighborhood? Have you ever become angry and defensive when someone questioned or challenged your religious or political beliefs? Have you ever felt the need to change someone or get them to do it your way? Have you ever needed to have the final word or to be right? And if so, what were you trying to possess? Or maybe the better question is what was possessing you?

We're at our best when we live non-possessive lives. We become more welcoming and hospitable. We forgive more freely. We're more generous with our time, money, and resources. We love more extravagantly. We see more clearly our deep interconnection with and need of others. A non-possessive life deepens our conversations and intimacy. It makes us better parents, spouses, and friends. We handle conflict and differences in better and more productive ways. We open our hearts and minds to other people and new possibilities. We're more creative and less judgmental of ourselves and others. Life is fuller and we are freer to live. That's how I want to live, most of us probably do. We want to live in the kingdom of life. Fear is probably the greatest impediment to a non-possessive life. Most of us live in fear, consciously or unconsciously, of losing what we have and not getting what we don't have. Maybe we should be more afraid of what we already have, of being owned by our possessions and desires. Maybe that's what Jesus is talking about when he says, "Do not be afraid." Do not be afraid of a non-possessive life.

What is possessing you today? What owns your life? In what ways are you being possessive of things, ideas or opinions, opportunities and resources, other people, yourself, God? What would a non-possessive life look like for you today? The most unexpected hour is the hour spent in the hospital waiting room; the hour sitting next to the phone waiting for news of a loved one; the hour praying for a miracle; the hour in which we wait for clarity and a way forward; the hour waiting for the grief to end and life to return to normal; the hour in which it seems as if nothing is happening, life is not the way we want, and there is nowhere to go. Keep yourselves ready to do good, rooted in what truly matters. Don't be afraid, little flock. **Amen.**

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

9 PENTECOST - PROPER 14

9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

10:00 AM

VESTRY MEETING

MONDAY

8:00 PM

AA MEETING

WEDNESDAY THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

7:00 PM AL-ANON MEETING

THURSDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

SATURDAY 10AM-2PM THRIFT SHOP

10 PENTECOST - PROPER 15 9:00 AM HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

Today Next Week

Eucharistic Minister Jess Berbeck Anthony Giordano

Coffee Hour Nolans Prossers

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.

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

