

Church of the divine love

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PROPER 18

SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 9:00 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence

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: **Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

Psalm 1

Second Lesson: **Philemon 1-21**

Gospel: **Luke 14:25-33**

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
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace (on insert)	
Prayer for the Parish	page 817
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal	

Sermon Sunday September 7, 2025

Deuteronomy 30: 15-20; Psalm 1; Philemon 1-21; Luke 14:25-33.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, are you sure you want to be a disciple of Jesus? He certainly doesn't pull any punches about what it takes. First, hate your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and yes, even your life itself. Second, carry the cross and follow him. Lastly, give up all your possessions.

It's that simple and it's that difficult. Jesus' words don't just sound black and white. They are black and white. It is all or nothing. We are either in or we are out. His words are likely not the first thing that comes to mind when we consider our faithfulness or what the Christian life looks like. We don't often talk about the demands and sacrifices required by the Christian path. Too often we turn Christianity into a set of beliefs divorced from a way of being and acting. I'm not talking about salvation, the future, heaven or hell. This is about who we are and how we live right now, here, today. So, what do we do with today's gospel, this so called "good news?" I suspect the first temptation is to soften the text, to explain it away, to reinterpret it to fit our lives. That temptation, however, is just another symptom of the consumerism that infects much

of our society, church, and faith. Too often church and faith are treated like a big buffet. We take as much of what we like and want but leave behind what we do not like, what's too hard to swallow, what we disagree with, or what does not fit our personal opinions and beliefs. That's not how the gospels portray Jesus or the life of discipleship. To the degree we have done that we have deceived ourselves and each other.

Sometimes we need to have demands and expectations placed upon us. Good parents know this. You need to eat it because it's good for you. You need to do this or that because it's the right thing to do. I expect you to study hard and do your homework, make good friends, do your chores. They demand and expect out of love so that their child might grow and thrive. That's what Jesus is doing in today's gospel. His demands and expectations call us to be different, to be fully alive, to be like him. It is the same choice Moses set before the Israelites, the choice between life and prosperity, and death and adversity (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**). It is a choice we make multiple times a day, every day of our lives. That's the choice with which Jesus confronts the crowds in today's gospel. The crowds have been gathering around Jesus since early in his ministry. Jesus was the new buffet for them. He offered healing, exorcisms, teaching, hope, life, good news, bread, freedom, and a new vision. He had what they wanted and they gathered around, surrounded, and pressed in on him. It was as if they could not get enough. The crowds grew in numbers, increasing by the thousands. Something changes, however, with today's gospel. They are no longer just gathering when Jesus is around; they are now traveling with him.

There is more to discipleship, however, than simply traveling with Jesus. Discipleship is more than grazing at the buffet of divine life. That life cannot be bought but it will cost us everything we have. Hate your family and your own life. Carry the cross. Give up your possessions.

Those three things, the cost of discipleship, shaped Jesus' own life and ministry. They are to shape ours as well. Jesus is not asking us to do anything he did not do. To the contrary he makes it possible for us to do what he did. So how did Jesus hate his parents? Remember the twelve-year-old Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem? Mary and Joseph are frantic looking for him. They think he is lost. When they find him, Mary asks, "'Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety.' He said to them, 'Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my father's house'" (**Luke 3:41-50**)? In that moment Jesus hates Mary and Joseph. He set his relationship with them below his relationship with God the Father. This is not the emotional, feeling based way, we tend to think

of hate today. For Jesus, hating another is about reordering relationships and loyalty. Jesus is not rejecting Mary and Joseph or their love and presence in his life. This is not about rejection but establishing new priorities. For the disciple no one and no relationship can take precedence over the relationship with Jesus; not father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, or life itself. In that sense Jesus hated his own life. He carried his cross and gave precedence to his Father's will and our salvation. Again, it is about priorities. He set aside his will and preferences in favor of love for and obedience to God.

What about Jesus' possessions? The birds and animals of this world have more possessions than Jesus. "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head," Jesus says (**Luke 9:58**). Again, Jesus is giving primacy to his relationship with God not his relationship with things. It's a question of priorities. Jesus is asking us to do and be what he did and who he was. That's what a disciple is. A disciple is a learner, one who learns to live, act, speak, and think like the teacher. The disciple integrates the teacher's life and teachings into his or her own life. No one, no cost, no thing is to take precedence over or interfere with our relationship with Jesus. Nothing is more important because it is our relationship with Jesus that shapes, defines, determines, and characterizes all our other relationships, all other aspects of our lives, who we are, what we say, and what we do.

Discipleship, learning to be and live like Jesus, is ultimately what unifies our life. So often we live fragmented and compartmentalized lives. We have a work life, school life, family and home life, internet life, recreational life, political and civic life, church life. This fragmentation allows us to place each of those different aspects of our life as the priority depending on where we are, who we are with, and what we are doing. That fragmentation is one more symptom of a consumer oriented, buffet driven world. Jesus' demands and expectations change all that. There can be only one priority and it is to inform and shape the whole of who we are and what we do. Think about some of the implications. It means we are to be the same person with the same values, principles, and beliefs regardless of where we are, who we are with, or what we are doing. It means politics is no longer governed by party agendas or loyalty but by commitment to Jesus and gospel agendas. It means personal opinions and preferences give way to love of neighbor and one's enemies. Imagine how that one thing would change some of the postings and comments on Facebook and other social, and our private as well as public conversations. It means business is not a capitalist venture to gain money, power, or leverage over another but a

resource to care for, support, and satisfy human needs. It means the environment is not a commodity to be used, polluted, and stripped, but a sacred gift entrusted to our care, a gift that manifests and reveals God's own beauty and holiness. It means everything we say, do, choose, and are arises from and reveals our life in and love of Christ.

If we choose to live like that there are costs to be paid and sacrifices to be made. We shouldn't be surprised. We know that's true for other parts of our lives. We sacrifice years of study for an education. We sacrifice long hours and weekends for a successful career. We sacrifice time, money, and other opportunities to make sure our kids get to camp, activities, and sports games. We sacrifice dessert for a healthy diet and sleeping in for time to work out. We know how to make sacrifices and pay the cost. We do it because these things are important to us. They are priorities for us. There's nothing wrong with any of those things. They are good and important aspects of our lives but we cannot avoid the obvious question to which these leads. What costs are we willing to pay and what sacrifices are we willing to make to be disciples of Jesus?

So here the question: what are you willing to sacrifice for Christ? If Jesus is Lord, then nothing else can be. If the kingdom is our true home, then every other allegiance must yield. This is the moment of choice. As Moses said, "choose life that you and your descendant may live." Choose by choosing Christ. Let that choice touch every part of who you are. Let it show in what you value, what you say, how you vote, how you treat the vulnerable, how you use your money and time. Let me end with a challenge. What is one thing, just one thing, that you can do or stop doing this week that reflects a reordering of your life toward Christ? Maybe it's giving away something you have clung to. Maybe, it's speaking a hard truth in love. Maybe it's forgiving someone or asking for forgiveness. Maybe it's reaching out to someone on the margins. Maybe it's choosing to speak up when others remain silent. Maybe it's choosing to live more simply so others might simply live.

Choose that one thing. Do it. Live it. Because when you do, you are no longer simply an admire of Jesus. You are his disciple. And that means something in a world starving for meaning, aching for justice, desperate for hope. **Amen.**

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

13 PENTECOST - PROPER 18

10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
	COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

MONDAY

8:00 PM	AA MEETING
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WEDNESDAY

7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
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THURSDAY

10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
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SATURDAY

10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
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14 PENTECOST - PROPER 19

10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
	COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

11:15 AM	VESTRY MEETING
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	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Erika Febres	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	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

