

Church of the divine love
SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 12
JULY 27, 2025 9:00 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 18:20-32**

Psalm 138

Second Lesson: **Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19)**

Gospel: **Luke 11:1-13**

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

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The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

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Sermon Sunday July 27, 2025

Genesis 18:20-32; Psalm 138; Colossians 2:6-15, (16-19); Luke 11:1-13.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, one of the disciples said to Jesus, "Lord, teach us to pray."

Prayer, for many of us, still lives under the shadow of the vending machine: insert the proper coins of faith, good behavior, and righteous words, press the right buttons, and out comes what we desire. But that understanding of prayer is a profound loss, it reduces prayer to a transactional relationship that distorts the living relationship into which Jesus invites us. And in this moment, with the world on fire, with democracy crumbling, with bombs falling, with families being deported, children going hungry, and the poor crushed under the weight of indifference and greed, we dare not settle for shallow or mechanistic prayer. We must pray as Jesus taught, and as the prophets modeled. We must pray with courage, with clarity, with lament, and with fierce hope.

In the Gospel, Jesus does not offer a formula. He offers a relationship. He teaches us to call God "Father," not because God is male, but because God is intimate, near, generative, and loving. God is not a vending machine. God is a Parent who feeds us daily bread and dares us to dream of a kingdom where the hungry are fed, the prisoners set free, and justice rolls down like waters. We need that kind of prayer today. Because our world is crying out. And so many are asking, searching, knocking only to be told there is no room, no help, no answer. We must be the people who say otherwise. When Abraham stood before

God, he dared to argue with the Almighty, to plead for the lives of the innocent in Sodom. He did not withdraw in reverence; he engaged in holy resistance. That is prayer. Bold. Relational. Risky. Abraham models what Paul in his letter to the Colossians names as fullness: rooted in Christ, alive in the Spirit, unafraid to challenge the forces of death because we are already raised with Him.

And yet, in our time, too many prayers have grown timid. Too many pulpits are silent while the poor suffer, and oligarchs thrive. Too many churches ask for comfort rather than justice. We forget that Jesus, the one who teaches us to pray, also overturned tables, broke unjust laws, and lifted up the lowly. The psalmist proclaims, "Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies." That is not cheap assurance. It is a cry from the trenches. God does not promise ease. God promises presence. And prayer becomes the place where we find our courage not to escape the world, but to transform it. Prayer is not a withdrawal from injustice. It is the fuel for our resistance. We must learn to pray as people who believe in resurrection. We must pray not for candy or comfort, but for courage to face the empire. We must learn, as Paul says, to hold fast to the Head, Christ Jesus, from whom the whole body is nourished and held together.

In the midst of not knowing or understanding maybe the most and the best we can do is to echo that disciple's request, "Lord, teach us to pray." We are always beginners, always learning to pray. Jesus' response is not an explanation of prayer or how it works. He does not offer a formula or magic words. He does not give us the correct change for the coke machine. Instead, Jesus teaches about who and how God is. "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom comes. Give us each day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial. Our Father in heaven, regardless of what has and has not happened, through our words and actions we bless, hallow, and make holy your name before others. We claim your ways, concerns, and desires as our own. Each day give us bread for the day to nourish and strengthen us in body and soul for whatever lies ahead. Free us from the past and forgive us our sins in the same way and to the same extent as we forgive others. Save us from the temptation of turning away from ourselves, one another, and you.

The prayer Jesus taught keeps the present from closing in upon itself and from closing in all around us. It opens the present moment to the possibility of something new, the chance of something different, something that will transform the present into something else. Prayer does not guarantee an outcome, undo the past, or offer an escape from life or the circumstances of our lives. It keeps us open to the future. And the future is always better, not because it necessarily will be, but because it might be. That possibility, they might be of the future, is our daily bread, why we forgive, and why we refuse to turn away. Some mornings that might be is the only reason we have the will to get out of bed; because it might be different, it might be better, it might offer something new. They might be of the future is at the heart of every prayer we offer. God is holy and we are his divine children, holy sons and daughters. That's

a given, a reality, before we even open our mouths and before we ever offer our coins or make a selection. The relationship already exists. That's how Jesus begins his teaching. Prayer is about relationship and presence. We're not telling God something that God does not know. We are reminding ourselves of what already is, always has been, and always will be.

That relationship means that our life, our existence, our very being, comes from our father. Jesus speaks of that as daily bread. We are too often convinced that we are or must be independent and self-sufficient. Prayer reminds us that we are self-sufficient. We ask each day for our daily bread. That does not mean we are deficient but that our sufficiency comes not from ourselves but from God. It means that God sustains and nourishes our life. That's another way of talking about relationship and presence. Those lines about forgiveness, ours and others. Again, that's about relationship and presence, with God and each other. If prayer, as Jesus teaches it, really is all about relationship and presence then there is only one answer to every prayer. God. I don't just mean God answers our prayer but that God is the answer; God's presence, life, love, beauty, generosity, compassion, forgiveness, wisdom, justice, mercy. God gives God's self as the answer to our every prayer. Jesus tells us that. If you, he says, know how to give your kids good things "how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit."

So yes, Lord, teach us to pray. Teach us to pray as the prophets prayed, with honesty and rage, with joy and trembling, with our hands and our feet. Teach us to pray as Jesus prayed, trusting in mercy, standing in truth, and never giving up on the dream of God. And when the vending machine does not deliver, when the door does not open, let us not lose faith. Let us remember that prayer is not the magic that makes life easier. It is the power that makes us dangerous to the powers that be. It is the love that will not let us go. So, pray, sisters and brothers. Pray with your life. And let the world be changed by the God who gives God's self, again, and again, and again, in answer to every prayer. **AMEN.**

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

7 PENTECOST - PROPER 12	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
8 PENTECOST - PROPER 13	9:00 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Dana Kenn	Anthony Giordano
Coffee Hour	Dave Treasure	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	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Joseph
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	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 for ever. Amen

