

Third Week of Lent Worship Service at 6:30 PM on Monday, March 13, 2023

Welcome and Greeting God is good **all the time**. All the time **God is good**.

Question of the Day Roman coins were made from: a) bronze b) gold c) copper d) silver

***Call to Worship**

Who has counted the hairs of our head?

Who knows what we will say before we say it?

Who knows all about us and values us completely?

Our loving Creator, Redeemer, and Guide.

Let us worship God!

Praise be to God!

***Prayer of Invocation**

Prepare us, O God, to hear your word through the scriptures this day. Confront us with your claims on our lives. Clarify the choices we must make if our lives are to have meaning and purpose. Help us to respond to the One who came as the bread of life so we may know life at its fullest and best. Amen.

***Hymn** “How Deep the Father’s Love For Us”

Mark 12:13-17 *New Revised Standard Version*

Then they sent to [Jesus] some Pharisees and some Herodians to trap him in what he said. And they came and said to him, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality, but teach the way of God in accordance with truth. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not? Should we pay them, or should we not?” But knowing their hypocrisy, he said to them, “Why are you putting me to the test? Bring me a denarius and let me see it.” And they brought one. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” They answered, “The emperor’s.” Jesus said to them, “Give to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” And they were utterly amazed at him.

John 2:13-22 *New Revised Standard Version*

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Matthew 10:26-31 *New Revised Standard Version*

[Jesus said,] “So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your

Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

Matthew 26:14-16 New Revised Standard Version

Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

Response: *The Word of God, for the people of God! Thanks be to God!*

Hymn “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”

Time of Prayer

How Is It With Your Soul?

Unison Prayer

God, we give thanks for the sparrows sold for two pennies, the squirrels so plentiful we often fail to notice them, and for all the priceless people we encounter this day. We thank you, too, for your unfailing love for us. We give to you our deepest concerns and our greatest hopes, knowing that you will take them, honor them, and mold them into something beautiful for you and for us. *Time of Silent Prayer*

Assurance

God hears and knows that we pray with Jesus:

The Lord’s Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Answer to the Question of the Day

Roman coins were made from: a) bronze b) gold c) copper d) silver

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Time of Offering *Thank you to everyone for your faithful generosity.*

***Offering Prayer**

God of Shining Clarity, we are so confused. We confuse having security with faith. We confuse sharing our excess with generosity. We confuse having with deserving. Restore us to our rightful minds. Help us know what riches we have and where we are poor indeed. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

***Song of Offering** “Jesus, Name Above All Names”

Message “How Valuable?” Rev. Joyce Rich

***Blessing**

God loves you so much God has counted the hairs of your head.

God’s love is amazing!

God values you so much God never wants to be apart from you.

God’s care is incredible!

Go to love and care for others as God loves and cares for you.

With God’s help, we will!

Amen. **And Amen.**

***Hymn** “You Are My King”

Announcements

Fourth Week of Lent: “Shoes” – Exodus 3:1-6; Ephesians 6:10-17

*Liturgical resources drawn from: **Flames of the Spirit**, edited by Ruth C. Duck © 1985 The Pilgrim Press; **Before the Amen: Creative Resources for Worship**, Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I Tirabassi, editors © 2007 Maren C. Tirabassi and Maria I Tirabassi; **Lent in Plain Sight: A Devotion Through Ten Objects**, Jill J. Duffield © 2020 Jill J. Duffield.*