

**Church of the Divine Love**

**FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

**APRIL 3, 2022**

**10:15 AM**

**HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II**

*Please observe silence      Alleluias are omitted during Lent*

A PENITENTIAL ORDER

Processional Hymn **#474 – When I survey the wondrous cross**

Opening Acclamation for Lent page 351

The Decalogue page 350

The Confession page 353

THE WORD OF GOD

Kyrie page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 43:16-21**

Psalm 126

Second Lesson: **Philippians 3:4b-14**

Gradual Hymn **#382 – King of glory, King of peace**

Gospel: **John 12:1-8**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#471 – We sing the praise of him who died**

Doxology (sung)	
The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer B	page 367
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 362
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – <b>#675 – Take up your cross</b>	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn <b>#313 – Let thy Blood in mercy poured</b>	
Dismissal	

### **Sermon Sunday April 3, 2022**

Isaiah 43: 16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3: 4b-14; John 12: 1-8

#### **Sisters and brothers in Christ,**

When was the last time you did something for someone else without any expectations, with no strings attached, without any conditions or preconditions? There was not why to what you were doing. You were just doing what you were doing because that's what you were doing. Someone says: "The rose has not why; it blossoms because it blossoms. It pays no attention to itself, nor does it ask whether anyone sees it."

What if we were to live like the rose, without a why? What if we blossomed simply because we blossomed? What if there was no motive or seeking to our blossoming; to be noticed, to be praised, to accomplish? What if we fragrant the world because we couldn't do anything but fragrance the world? The rose is going to do what it's going to do regardless of whether anyone sees or smells it. Its beauty and fragrance are not means to an end. It has no why.

I want to live without a why. I want to give and do unconditionally, at least that's what I want on my better days. I think that's often how we see ourselves and how we want to be and live, to live unconditionally and without strings attached, but it's harder than it sounds. We live in a world of economy, exchange, and transaction. You scratch my back; I'll scratch your back. We live in a world in which you pay for what you want. There is, as the saying goes, no such thing as a free lunch. We're expected to return the favor, pay off the debt, or reciprocate in some way. In short, you get what you pay for. And we pay in all sorts of ways.

Think about all the ways that happens and how commonplace and acceptable it is. We exchange our time for money, sacrifice our families for success, and trade our dreams for the practicalities of making ends meet. Have you ever received a gift and felt indebted, obligated to return the favor, or at least send a thank-you note? Even the best-intentioned gifts can leave the recipient with an unintended debt of gratitude. And how did you feel when you did not receive a thank-you note or other acknowledgment after giving a gift or did not receive an invitation to dinner at their house after you had them to dinner at your house.

Have you ever sent flowers after an argument? Were you giving a gift or working a deal? Have you ever argued over the lunch bill? You paid the last time, it's my turn or I'll get it today, you can get it next time. Regardless of what side of the campaign finance issue you're on everyone knows that big time donors expect big time returns. And it's not just in politics, sometimes it's in college admissions. If your charitable gifts are charitable enough you get rewarded with a tax deduction. Have you ever said or done something as a means to an end? Have you ever wondered why somebody was doing something for you, wondered what was in it for them? It's even in church and our faith. Theologians call it "the economy of salvation." Believe in Jesus, follow his way, and you too can have salvation. Sometimes we believe that our prayers and good behavior are the currency that pays for God's favor.

I say none of that as a criticism or judgment but simply as an observation that there are thousands of ways in which we daily transact the business of life. We can't escape that. It's hard, maybe impossible, to give a pure gift. Economies are a part of our world and our lives. As much as I love being a priest and say that I am not in it for the money, I still want and need to be paid. I am not suggesting economies are inherently wrong or that we need to rid ourselves of economies, but maybe we need to be more aware of them and the power and influence they have. Maybe we need to lessen and loosen the stranglehold they tend to have on us. We cannot always do everything for the payoff, and sometimes we don't. There are times when we do or need to do something simply for the sake of doing it, things like love, forgiveness, truth, hospitality, justice, compassion. In those times something is being affirmed for itself not for what it might achieve or accomplish. There is no why.

I think that's what's going on with Mary in today's gospel (John 12:1-8). She loves because she loves. She anoints because she anoints. She fragrances because she fragrances. There is no why. It is gift, "grace upon grace." There is nothing in it for her. It is unconditional, without measure or calculation. And it looks reckless and irresponsible. She is not invested in a result or seeking a particular outcome. She's just doing what she's doing because that's what she's doing. She breaks the chains of means and ends. And it makes no sense to Judas or any other economist.

Gift stands in contrast to economy, even as Mary stands in contrast to Judas. "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" I don't know what Judas' real motive was. Maybe he was, as our text says, a thief and wanted it all for himself. Maybe he really did care about and want to help the poor. Or maybe our gospel writer was seeking paybacks and revenge (another economy) and portrayed him in a negative light. There are multiple ways of interpreting what Judas says. In any event Judas is calculating and practical. He knows the market. He's an investor looking for a return. He wants to turn Mary's gift into a profit. Judas has a why. He's aligned himself with a means and an end. In the economies of our life everything has a why, life is calculable, and we become calculating, expecting a return on our investment whether that investment is money, time, love, or a good deed.

Let's not draw any conclusions here about Mary or Judas. It would be easy to oppose them. Mary is good, Judas is bad. Mary is right, Judas is wrong. But here's the thing. I know times when I have lived as Judas and times when I have lived as Mary, don't you? What if they are not two opposite lives or people but two aspects of our lives, two ways of living and relating? What if we hold both Mary and Judas within ourselves? What if they are images of ourselves, images of our charitable self and our economic self, images of our unconditioned life and our conditioned life? When have you been Mary and when have you been Judas? What's your experience of the two? In what ways have they shaped or misshaped your life?

I don't think it's a question of choosing one over the other, gift or economy, Mary, or Judas, but of living in the tension of the two. That tension is what sometimes keeps us up at night, calls us into question, awakens us to how we truly want to live. That tension is the call to be discerning and thoughtful about how we respond to others and engage life. That tension pushes us to look within ourselves at our motives and desires. That tension reveals that Mary and Judas, gift and economy are interwoven, and each has the possibility of the other. It reminds us that the fragrance of life can be neither bought nor sold. It's priceless. Yes, Easter is coming, but it is not here yet, and it cannot be, because our Lord has yet to meet his fate, taking our place; his body has yet to be broken for us; his blood has yet to be shed for the life of the world. Our Lenten journey culminates at the foot of the cross. It is only by walking shoulder to shoulder with our companions on the way that this dusty and worn path can become for us nothing less than the way of life and peace. **Amen.**

Masks optional with social distance seating

Easter flower memorial envelopes are at the back of the Church.

Please clearly print the names of your loved ones you wish to memorialize and return by April 10<sup>th</sup>.

Make checks payable to: The Church of the Divine Love Altar Guild.

SUNDAY – 5 LENT	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
MONDAY	8:00 AM	AA MEETING	
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING	

THURSDAY                    10AM-2PM                    THRIFT SHOP

8:00 PM                    AA MEETING

SATURDAY                    10AM-2PM                    THRIFT SHOP

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

10:15 AM                    LITURGY OF THE PALMS

Beginning in the Parish Hall with procession to the church

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II                    (also on zoom)

SUPPORT THE FOOD DRIVE – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

### **PARISH PRAYER LIST**

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Carol K.	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
Jean C.	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Grace Schinella
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Robert Sweat
Martinisi Family	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Sylvia

Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Laura
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Taylor
Ciara	Gabriel	Aidan
Elodie	Del	Julia
People of Haiti	Chrissy Neville	Tim
Theresa K.	Amy E.	Dorothy
Nathan Treadwell	Christopher & Family	
People of Ukraine		

Help us to speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them. Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

The departed: Girard Bishop

Prayer before Worship

Almighty God, who pours out on all who desire it, the spirit of grace. Deliver us, when we draw near to you, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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